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Afghanistan

Embassies' Closure—A Foreign Ministry statement cited by Kabul radio 27 January viewed the withdrawal of Western diplomats from Kabul as part of a "pyschological war" aimed at boosting the morale of the opposition forces and instilling fear in the Afghan people.

The statement was issued the same day that Britain and France followed the United States in announcing the closure of their embassies, according to London PRESS ASSOCIATION and Paris radio.

Soviet Diplomacy—During a 28 January meeting with President Najibullah, Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov conveyed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's assurance that the USSR will "not abandon its friends" in the PDPA and the Afghan people, Kabul radio reported.

In Pakistan, a Foreign Office official confirmed that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will arrive 4 February to hold talks with Pakistani leaders on the Afghanistan issue, according to Islamabad radio.

Food/Security Situation—Kabul radio reported that food and fuel convoys arrived in the capital over the weekend, while operations continued against "extremists" along the Salang highway.

A number of rebels were "crushed," including several commanders from Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's group.

Afghan Government forces also captured depots in which the rebels had stored goods plundered from convoys traveling along the highway.

An official statement broadcast by the radio maintained that responsibility for all the bloodshed and destruction along the Salang highway rests entirely with Mas'ud, as he had continued his "terroristic and plundering actions" in an attempt to kill people through hunger, despite warnings from the authorities.

The statement included the text of two letters to Mas'ud from Najibullah in 1988, noting that Mas'ud did not reply.

Soviet food supplies to Kabul were the subject of discussions between Prime Minister Hasan Sharq and a visiting Soviet delegation headed by Yuriy Maslyukov, a CPSU Politburo candidate member, Kabul radio reported.

Sharq also inspected storehouses in the Hayratan area near Mazar-e Sharif over the weekend, the radio noted.

On the military situation in Kabul, the radio disclosed that one person was killed in a 27 January missile strike on residential districts of the city.

In Islamabad, mujahidin official Burhanuddin Rabbani called on the UN secretary general to personally investigate the "atrocities" committed during recent Soviet air strikes in Panjsher and other areas, AFP reported.

Rabbani also revealed that the mujahidin have no plans to meet with Shevardnadze during his visit to Pakistan.

Lebanon

Amal-Hizballah Agreement—The Amal Movement and Hizballah reached a "comprehensive accord" after discussions in Damascus over the weekend in which the Syrian and Iranian foreign ministers held separate meetings with Amal and Hizballah delegations, Damascus radio announced.

The two ministers, Faruq al-Shar' and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, also met with each other on two occasions to promote the agreement.

IRNA noted that Amal and Hizballah are expected to sign the accord in the presence of Syrian and Iranian officials 30 January.

Although Voice of Lebanon radio reported that much of Velayati's talks with Hizballah leaders was devoted to the issue of foreign hostages in Lebanon, the radio later cited a statement by a Hizballah official who maintained that the hostage issue has "nothing to do with us or with the agreement."

Car Bombs—A car bomb exploded near Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah's motorcade in East Beirut 30 January, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Although Sa'adah was unhurt, 2 people were killed and 12 injured in the blast.

A booby-trapped vehicle also exploded near a Syrian Army checkpoint in the Al-Biqa' Valley 28 January, killing or wounding around 50 people, Radio Free Lebanon noted.

The casualties included one Syrian soldier killed and four wounded.

Two other people were wounded by an explosion in West Beirut the same day.

In another development, four South Lebanese Army soldiers were wounded in a gun battle with "terrorists" in the Israeli "security zone" 29 January, Jerusalem radio reported.

Arab League Committee—The committee on Lebanon chaired by the Kuwaiti foreign minister will begin contacts 30 January with the rival Lebanese leaders who arrived in Tunis over the weekend, Tunis radio noted.

Israel

Al-Husayni Release—After his release from prison 29 January, Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni denied that he was set free as part of a deal with the authorities and pointed out that his 6-month term of administrative detention had just ended, Jerusalem radio reported.

At a cabinet meeting the same day, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin confirmed reports that Al-Husayni held talks in jail with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of Israeli activities in the territories, the radio noted.

Replying to criticisms of the meeting, Rabin stated that he had approved it and said the "most serious thing" was that the meeting was publicized.

MA'ARIV, which broke the story on 27 January, reported that the contents of the Al-Husayni-Goren talks were relayed to PLO leaders abroad through elements close to Al-Husayni.

Interviewed by Tel Aviv educational television, Al-Husayni said that Rabin's plan for elections in the territories "does not meet our conditions," but he stressed that the Palestinians will agree to hold elections if their conditions are met.

Al-Husayni also welcomed statements by Ezer Weizman and other ministers and MK's calling for negotiations with the PLO.

Violence in Territories—One Palestinian youth was killed and 17 wounded during clashes with soldiers 27-29 January, according to Jerusalem radio and television reports.

Palestinian sources cited by THE JERUSALEM POST estimated the number of wounded at around 48.

Relations with Egypt—Egypt's decree regarding the hotel in Tabah proved to be "moderate" in that it only talks about authorizing the Egyptian Tourism Ministry to conduct negotiations on the purchase of the hotel, IDF radio reported 29 January.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman had earlier welcomed Egypt's decision not to declare its sovereignty over Tabah on 29 January, according to Jerusalem radio.

In another development, IDF radio reported that Egypt has agreed to pay some $500,000 to the families of the Ra's al-Burqa' massacre victims.

This is around half the sum demanded by Israel, but considerably more than Egypt was originally prepared to pay.

PLO Affairs

At a 27 January news conference reported by Madrid radio, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat urged President George Bush to open a "new political page" in the Middle East.

He also claimed that the Israeli authorities have sent messages to the PLO through Palestinians in the occupied territories, mentioning in this connection the talks between Faysal al-Husayni and Shmu'el Goren.

As for his talks in Madrid, 'Arafat noted that his talks with Spanish King Juan Carlos were "cordial and understanding," and that he had discussed "important" issues during talks with the Spanish prime minister and the Spanish, French, and Greek foreign ministers.

Regarding relations with Syria, PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih told Amman's AL-RA'Y that a Palestinian delegation will travel to Syria to discuss the possibility of 'Arafat visiting Damascus.

Syria

Relations with Egypt—Foreign Minister al-Shar' disclosed that Syria sees "positive developments" in Egypt's policy, according to London's AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait denied saying that relations with Syria are likely to be resumed within days, according to Kuwait's AL-WATAN.

New Soviet Ambassador—The appointment of Aleksandr Zotov as Soviet ambassador to Syria is seen by observers as an "important message to Syria" to give up its "illusions about a military option against Israel," Kuwait's AL-QABAS reported 27 January.

The paper noted that Zotov played a major role in the improvement of Soviet-Israeli relations and also served as party official in charge of domestic Jewish affairs.

Iran

U.S. Relations—In a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio, President 'Ali Khamene'i stressed that Iran does not accept the conditions laid down by President Bush for a resumption of U.S.-Iranian relations.

He said the United States "cannot set conditions" for Iran, which in any case has its own conditions that the United States must meet before relations can be resumed.

Iran has consistently informed the Americans that it will only consider a resumption of relations if the United States refrains from "oppression, injustice, and aggression" against Iran and repays outstanding debts, he noted.

Iran neither needs nor is afraid of the United States, he contended.

The Tehran daily ABRAR described as "coercion and blackmail" the U.S. demand that American hostages in Lebanon be released before ties are reestablished, IRNA reported.

The agency also cited a TEHRAN TIMES commentary which urged the United States not to lay too much stress on the hostages issue, but rather to think "in normal terms on the basis of mutual national interests."

President Bush would be wrong to assume that Iran has much of a direct influence over the release of hostages in Lebanon, the paper said.

Expulsion of Briton—British citizen Samuel Williams has been expelled from Iran after being convicted of "illegal activities," the Information Ministry announced in a statement carried bu IRNA 30 January.

Internal Affairs—Some 900 prisoners will be released in Esfahan during the upcoming revolution anniversary in accordance with an amnesty approved by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri on behalf of Ayatollah Khomeyni, IRNA reported.

Another 220 prisoners will be pardoned in East Azarbayjan, the agency added.

In other developments, Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad Khatami stressed that the Islamic Republic needs to be "flexible" and open to "honest criticisms" as it enters its second decade, IRNA reported.

In contrast, Khomeyni sent a letter to broadcasting chief Mohammad Hashemi calling for the punishment of the person responsible for broadcasting a recent radio program about "the symbol of Islamic woman," IRNA noted.

If it is proved that the program was a "deliberate insult," the program maker should receive the death sentence, Khomeyni warned.

Iran-Iraq Negotiations

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn told visiting UN special envoy Jan Eliasson that Iraq agrees to the UN secretary general's proposal to form a mixed military commission, INA reported.

The Iraqi leader informed Eliasson that Iraq has decided to lift its ban on air navigation to Iran.

He also affirmed Iraq's readiness to continue the negotiations "without any conditions," noting that Iraq rejects any conditions that Iran may have for their continuation.

Before leaving Baghdad, Eliasson said he hopes that Iraq's recent release of prisoners and its lifting of the ban on civil aviation will improve the atmosphere for the resumption of talks in Geneva, INA noted.

Regarding Eliasson's earlier visit to Tehran, an Iranian official cited by Tehran radio noted that the UN envoy was made aware of Iran's view that Resolution 598 must be implemented "in accordance with the designated clauses."

Eliasson was informed that Iraq's failure to withdraw its forces to the international borders could disrupt the region's peace and security, the official indicated.

Pakistan

Nuclear Program—A Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed 29 January that the country's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes to meet an increasing industrial need for electricity, Islamabad radio reported.

The radio added that an embassy spokesman in Washington "rejected" a report that Pakistan is close to making an atomic bomb.

Pakistan has successfully launched a multistage rocket 640 km into deep space with a payload of 150 kg, according to Delhi radio citing Karachi's DAWN.

By-election Results—The Election Commission 29 January announced the "provisional results" of by-elections for 13 National Assembly seats and 7 provincial assembly seats, Islamabad radio reported, adding that the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) won 7 National Assembly seats and the Pakistan People's Party won 4 seats.

The IDA leader in the National Assembly told a news conference in Lahore 27 January that his party will join the coalition government in Baluchistan, Islamabad radio reported.

Sudan

The "strategic" town of Nasir and its garrison commander were captured by SPLA forces 26 January, the clandestine Radio SPLA reported.

According to SUNA, government troops evacuated the town because it "had become impracticable" to maintain supplies due to "protracted autumn weather.

The National Defense Council held an emergency meeting 28 January to discuss the withdrawal from Nasir garrison and to begin the necessary measures to recapture it, Omdurman radio reported.

Maghreb Affairs

Western Sahara—The Polisario Front announced a "unilateral truce" for February in order to "encourage" dialogue with the Moroccans, according to a French magazine cited by Algiers radio 27 January.

The radio added that Morocco welcomed the truce and saw it as "proof of goodwill."

Algerian-Libyan Relations—Algerian Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah met with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli 29 January for talks on bilateral relations, the situation in the area, and issues of mutual interest, according to Algiers radio.

Documents on Algerian-Libyan cooperation in social, economic, and other spheres were signed in Tripoli 30 January by Merbah and the secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, JANA reported.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat on European Stand, Peace Moves

JN2701083489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1950 GMT 26 Jan 89

["Text" of interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by the Omani newspaper AL-WATAN "during his recent visit to Oman"—read by announcer]

[Text] The meeting with Abu 'Ammar was not prearranged, but thought out on the spur of the moment. I had the honor of meeting the symbol of struggle of the longest question in the history of conflicts and wars. My pleasure was overwhelming when my request was immediately met and I became even more pleased with Abu 'Ammar's Arab generosity when he allowed a number of my fellow journalists in AL-WATAN to attend this meeting.

Many things were reviewed with 'Arafat. He shed light on the current situation of the Palestine question and the possible developments in the near future. He discussed the woes of the question from the beginning up till now and touched on the world stand vis-a-vis this question.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, you met with His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id twice during this visit. What did you discuss?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: My visit to the Sultanate and my meeting with his majesty the sultan gave me the opportunity to apprise his majesty of the situation of the Palestine question and the conditions of our people in the occupied territories.

I felt all support and backing from his majesty to his brothers and kinfolk the people of Palestine, who stand fast in the face of the sinful occupation.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, what is the stand toward your demand concerning the presence of UN forces to stop the massacres and acts of oppression to which the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories are subjected?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: This demand came as a result of the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories and Israel's insistence in perpetrating its brutal crimes. The current circumstances drive us to demand an immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories. This is not an individual demand, but a PNC demand.

It was emphasized once again in my recent speech in Geneva. I would like to say that we accept a transitional period of several months under UN auspices after the withdrawal. During this period, the Palestinian people are enabled to exercise their right to self-determination. It should be noted here that this right is neither temporary nor linked to a certain time, but a lasting right as long as it is related to the existence of a people who have suffered enough tragedies from the occupation for more than 40 years.

I stress here that my call for the convening of an effective international conference to be attended by the Security Council permanent member states under the auspices of the international organization and the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the State of Palestine and the state of the Zionist enemy, is our initiative that was endorsed in the PNC meetings.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, there has been a breakthrough in the U.S. stand after your historical speech in Geneva and channels of contact between the United States and the PLO now exist. Do you expect the United States to play an active role in the interest of peace?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: We do not predict events. It is necessary for us to wait a while to see the features and inclinations of the new U.S. policy. Will they be similar to past ones, hostile as they were toward the Palestinian and Arab people? Or will they move in different directions? This is what the coming days will reveal.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, the past stage witnessed moves by France, Spain, and the United Kingdom with respect to the [Palestinian] cause. However, were the recent visits by the Spanish and French foreign ministers to occupied Palestine unproductive?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: We all know that the Israelis do not want Europe to play any effective role. They insist that the improved Camp David formula should prevail, not to mention that they reject the United Nation's role. This is the Israeli stand.

Question: In view of this intransigent Israeli stand, what would happen if the Palestinian peace initiative founders?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: This depends on the U.S. stand and not the Israeli one. We must keep in mind how Eisenhower in 1956 ordered not only Israel but two big powers at the time, France and the United Kingdom, to withdraw from Port Said. The withdrawal took place within a period of 48 hours.

All this makes us stress the need for the new U.S. Administration to act seriously to end the Israeli intransigence in the occupied Arab territories in a manner that will attain stability in the Middle East region. Therefore, in accordance with political concepts and theories, the decision depends on Washington and not on Tel Aviv.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, the Arab-U.S. Antidiscrimination Society [as published] invited you to deliver a speech in Washington in April. Is this invitation listed on your agenda?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: Such an invitation has been sent to me. But this visit is not listed on my agenda at the present time.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, Al-Sadat used to repeat a famous saying that the United States possesses 99 percent of the cards of the cause. Do you agree with this saying at the present time?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: At present, I say that the opposite is true, because 99 percent of the cards of the cause are in Arab hands, following the recent developments in the cause.

A proof of this is that during its recent session, the PNC adopted what the Arabs had agreed upon at the Fes summit but in a new form. Matters have reached the extent of copying expressions from the minutes of the summit itself.

Brother Abu 'Ammar went on to say that the change in the Arab stand has come as a result of the recent developments which, in their turn, have further enhanced this change. In the past, the upshot of the Arab and Palestinian stands was weak, but in 1988 a change took place on the Palestinian land, which has enhanced what we have been saying to the world and has given it more clarity and force.

This has made the international community turn its attention to us and understand the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. This forceful Arab stand has been based on three main pillars:

First, the Palestinians' steadfastness in the face of the Zionist occupation, and continuity, whether in the occupied territories through the heroic uprising or in southern Lebanon.

The second pillar is represented by the Arab stand which has enriched the elements of the cause, in addition to the fact that the war between Iraq and Iran has ended, thus giving the Arabs the opportunity to devote more of their attention to supporting the Palestinian people's cause.

In this respect, one cannot but note here the importance of Egypt's return to the Arab fold. From this premise, I mean what I say that there are new elements in 1988, elements which did not exist in 1982 when the Arab peace plan was adopted by the Fes summit.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, only the United States and Israel objected to the convening of an international conference. What is your comment?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: It suffices that for the first time, the entire world voted in favor of the resolution. As you know, through this objection, Israel and the United States aimed at hindering the peace efforts in the region. The international consensus on the implementation of the resolution and the convening of an international conference under the UN umbrella and with the participation of the five Security Council permanent member states has great meanings and implications.

All our efforts as Arabs should now focus on the convening of the conference this year so that the opportunity for discussing the Arab-Israeli conflict, and its crux the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, is provided.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, it was announced that you will visit Spain to meet a European delegation after the recent positive development in the European stand toward the Palestine question.

Brother Abu 'Ammar: Yes. My visit comes upon an official invitation I received from the Spanish Government. After this visit, I will meet with the tripartite committee formed by the EC and comprising the foreign ministers of France, Spain, and Greece.

The task of this committee is confined to discussing ways of achieving peace with the Palestinian and Israeli sides. The foreign ministers of Spain and France had visited occupied Palestine and the committee is scheduled to visit a number of Arab countries during the coming period.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, how do you assess the Soviet role toward the Palestine question?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: The Soviet friends presented the Palestine question as a hot issue on the agenda of negotiations between the two superpowers. Remember that Gorbachev, in his latest speech at the United Nations, pointed only to two questions—namely, the Palestine question and the Afghan issue.

Through the valiant uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the Soviet Union managed to place the Palestine question among priority issues for discussion by the world community. Consequently, we attach great hopes to the Soviet role in the convening of an international peace conference.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, in view of repeated Israeli attempts to expand Israel's terrorist actions outside the occupied Arab territories to cover other Arab countries, what is the required Arab stand to confront these threats?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: Israel did what it did in southern Lebanon, attacked the nuclear plant in Iraq, and bombed the PLO headquarters in Tunis. Furthermore, it threatened to bomb a number of Arab countries. In this, it is, undoubtedly, supported by its advanced military capability that it receives from the United States.

Therefore, there is a need now, more than ever before, for concerted Arab efforts and the adoption of a practical formula to curb Israel's actions and prevent it from implementing Ben-Gurion's recommendations regarding expansion on what remains of Arab territory.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, if the international peace conference is not held this year against the wish of the world, how will the uprising develop?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: The uprising is now in its 14th month despite Israel's attempts to oppress it by all means of force and despite the presence of about 28,000 Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails and the presence of 5,500 disabled and more than 550 martyrs.

The uprising will not stop except when Israel withdraws from the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people are given the opportunity to establish their independent state on their soil, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Question: Brother Abu 'Ammar, after the recent gains, do you expect the opening of more Palestinian embassies, especially in non-Arab countries?

Brother Abu 'Ammar: The picture is honorable and assuring and will continue to be so given the fact that we now enjoy an international legitimacy. Do not forget that up till now 104 Arab and non-Arab countries recognized the Palestinian state and voted in favor of our legitimate rights in the United nations.

Of these states, 94 sent me papers of the recognition of the Palestinian state and, consequently, we expect the coming period to witness the opening of new embassies for us in many countries.

At the end of the dialogue, I shook hands with brother Abu 'Ammar, wishing him a successful tour and fruitful efforts to achieve the ambitions of fraternal Palestinian people.

'Arafat Asks Pope To Urge Security Council Talks

JN2901190289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent a letter to Pope John Paul II explaining the deteriorating state of affairs in the Palestinian camps of the occupied homeland. Abu 'Ammar urged the pope to intervene on behalf of convening an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to put an end to the suffering of the Palestinians in their occupied land.

PLO representative to Italy brother Nimr Hammad said he conveyed the letter to Vatican officials the day before yesterday [27 January].

Delegation to Syria To Prepare for 'Arafat Visit

JN2901191089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has declared that a Palestinian delegation will visit Syria to look into the possibility of brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] visiting Damascus as well as to prepare for it.

In a press statement published in Jeddah today, his eminence emphasized the importance of the Syrian role and added it is in our interest to cooperate with all Arab states and to realize Arab solidarity. The Palestine question, he added, rallies all Arab trends around it, indicating that the Zionist danger threatens other Arabs as much as it does the Palestinians.

Asked about the borders of a Palestinian state, the PNC speaker said it is premature to discuss this and it should wait for the international peace conference.

He hoped the United States of President Bush will strike a balance between the Arabs and the enemy. The new U.S. leadership, said Al-Sa'ih, is taking new steps to prove it is not biased.

Khalaf on Provisional Government, Kissinger Role

NC2901162889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Jan (MENA)—Salah Khalaf, alias Abus Iyad, has disclosed that the Palestinian leadership will hold a meeting on 25 February to decide whether or not to form a provisional Palestinian Government.

In a statement published in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' today, Khalaf, who is a member of the Fatah Central committee, noted that at the 25 February meeting the Palestinian leadership might decide to postpone the formation of such a government to a later date or call on the Central Council to study its formation and define its relationship with the PLO.

Khalaf denied the existence of any U.S. conditions for continuing the dialogue with the PLO. He stressed that the Bush administration is capable of reactivating the Middle East peace process without giving in to "Israeli provocations designed to impose certain conditions for maintaining the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue."

Khalaf said the PLO does not intend to boycott former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger if he undertakes a tour of the region as an envoy of U.S. President George Bush to follow-up the Middle East issue. However, he said: We are not optimistic about the prospect of having the Middle East issue handed over to Kissinger.

Bassam Abu Sharif Gives London News Conference

PM2701161689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jan 89 pp 1-2

[Mahir 'Uthman report: "Bassam Abu Sharif Urges British Jews To Intervene; Israelis Sexually Assault Detained Girls and Children"]

[Text] London—Bassam Abu Sharif, political and information adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has appealed to the European states to

form an international force to replace the Israeli occupation forces in the occupied Palestinian territory to enable the innabitants to freely exercise their right to self-determination.

He called on the United Nations, especially the UN Security Council's permanent members, to shoulder its responsibility to protect the people of the occupied territories from the increasingly vicious Israeli acts of terrorism.

Bassam Abu Sharif, who was speaking at a news conference in the PLO office in London yesterday, appealed to the new U.S. President George Bush to defend Palestinian human rights and urged the Jewish chief rabbi in Britain Lord Emanuel Jacobovic to investigate the sexual assaults by Israeli soldiers on Palestinian girls and children in Israeli detention camps.

Abu Sharif held the news conference in London before proceeding to Oxford to address Oxford University's Middle East Society. There he called for the formation of a committee to prepare for an international peace conference on the Middle East and called for protection of the Palestinian people by arranging the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the West Bank and Gaza in accordance with a timetable to be agreed upon with the UN Security Council's permanent members with multinational forces or UN forces replacing the occupation forces.

In his Oxford speech, under the title "Lay Down Your Arms for We Have an Appointment With Peace," Abu Sharif urged international efforts and cooperation to foil any terrorist operation aimed at aborting the Palestinian peace initiative announced by Yasir 'Arafat at the UN General Assembly in Geneva last December.

At his London news conference Bassam Abu Sharif said the Israeli Government's decision to allow use of live ammunition and plastic bullets against Palestinian civilians was "a serious decision reflecting the Israeli Government's determination to persist in its expansionist iron-fist policy against the population and its intention to keep the occupied territories by force."

He added: "That Israeli response to the Palestinian peace initiative will not make the PLO abandon its peace initiative."

Abu Sharif said he raised the issue of escalating Israeli terrorism against the Palestinians with British Minister of State at the Foreign Office William Waldegrave when he met with him in London the day before yesterday. He added: "I believe that the British Government under Mrs Margaret Thatcher will not remain silent about the serious and explosive situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank."

He also said: "We hope Europe will respond positively to the request made by some Palestinian figures in the occupied territory that Europe take a practical step to protect our people from that (Israeli) military beast that opens fire indiscriminately and holds tens of thousands of civilians in detention camps."

He urged the European states to maintain the peace momentum generated by the peace initiative announced by Yasir 'Arafat in Geneva and to work for an international peace conference on the Middle East as soon as possible.

The Palestinian people under PLO leadership, he said, want free elections, but such elections cannot be held under Israeli occupation. "This is why we call on Europe to form an international force to conduct elections in the occupied Palestinian territory under its own supervision and to let our people determine their own future status."

He referred to the UN Security Council's decision early this year [as published] to keep the Middle East file open. He said: "A year has now passed (since that decision) and the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council are now called upon to assume responsibility for the situation, which is deteriorating daily."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked Bassam Abu Sharif about the PLO reaction to the statement made by Waldegrave (in London after his meeting with 'Arafat in Tunis) and the statement made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker (in Congress in Washington) that their governments do not accept the principle of an independent Palestinian state.

He replied: "We are holding talks and we will continue them until we reach the stage of establishing peace in the Middle East. Self-determination is a sacrosanct right for all peoples, including the Palestinian people, on the basis of natural rights, human rights, and the UN Charter. The 5.5 million Palestinian people are entitled to that right, just like the 1,800 Falklanders."

Asked whether he had shown Waldegrave the text of 'Arafat's speech in which, some circles claim, he threatened the assassination of Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj for allegedly advocating a truce between Israel and the Palestinians, Bassam Abu Sharif said:

"I said in a statement that we have the text of the 'Arafat speech in question and we challenged anyone claiming to have a recording of that speech to produce it at a news conference. 'Arafat threatened no one. Ilyas Frayj has himself confirmed that. Legally, that is sufficient to close that particular file."

Abu Sharif added that the PLO is responsible for Frayj's safety in his capacity as a Palestinian "and those who pretend to be worried about Frayj's safety should also show some concern about the safety of the hundreds of Palestinians wounded every month and the thousands of Palestinian detainees."

Abu Sharif also said: "We hope that U.S. President Bush will in no way accept Israel's daily violation of human rights and international law. We hope that President Bush will defend the Palestinian people's human rights."

Asked if the PLO were hoping for a meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and the new U.S. secretary of state, Abu Sharif said:

"Our meetings with U.S. officials have so far been positive. The aim is to raise the level of contacts to the point of accepting a solution that would confirm the Palestinian people's right to self-determination as well as protection of the security of all states of the region, including Palestine."

Asked whether the PLO was hoping that a meeting could be arranged between British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and 'Arafat, he said:

"British-Palestinian relations are good. We hope they will continue to improve and that the British Government will help bring about an international peace conference and help the parties concerned to sit down together and establish peace. The level of meetings (between the PLO and the British Government) will be decided when the time comes."

In reply to another question, Abu Sharif cited the Israeli war minister's proposal calling for elections in the occupied territory after a truce there with the aim of "ensuring a higher degree of autonomy for the Palestinian population " Abu Sharif said:

"The dead ideas proposed by Rabin cannot possibly deal with the dynamic situation in the occupied territory. Violence only breeds violence. The Israeli leaders should understand that."

Asked "what would the Palestinians lose if they declared a truce and stopped the uprising?" he replied that "the uprising is a human reaction to persecution. The Palestinians will stop the uprising when its causes disappear. Those who want the uprising to end should help us persuade the Israelis to end the occupation. If there had been no occupation there would have been no uprising. Anyone calling for an end to the uprising is actually opposing human rights under the UN Charter."

PLO Figure Favors Further Dialogue with U.S.

LD2701094389 Kuwait KUNA in English 0825 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 27 (KUNA)—A senior PLO official hoped the new American Administration would accelerate resumption of serious US-PLO dialogue which the PLO has already requested.

PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman Najjab said in an interview with local daily AL-ANBA' published here Friday that the PLO seeks US recognition of the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and statehood.

Any U.S. attempt to revive the Camp David plans as a basis for settling the Palestinian question would only indicate there has been nothing new in the American stand and would prove they are not serious, he said.

Najjab noted the PLO will not scrap its resolution adopted in its 19th session in Algiers, including the decision related to recognition of UN Resolution 242 and 338.

He described the recent Israeli proposal calling for elections in the occupied land as a "conspiracy" aimed at undermining the PLO's legitimacy in representing the Palestinian people.

However, he added, the PLO accepts the idea of municipal elections only after the withdrawal of Israeli occupation army and under the UN auspices.

Najjab, who is Politbureau member of the Palestinian Communist Party, lauded Soviet-Palestinian relations and backed French proposals calling for formation of a preparatory committee entrusted with setting the stage for an international conference on the Mideast.

(?A senior) PLO delegation, he said, will soon visit Latin America for meetings with government officials, party leaders and the Arab community in the continent.

PLO Official Says Mosad Involved in Pan Am Crash

NC3001091189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Jan (MENA)—Dr Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the PNC Political Committee and political adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, has affirmed that Egypt is the most important country in the Middle East and the Arab region.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH published today, the Palestinian official said Egypt is playing a major political and diplomatic role in applying pressure in various directions to ensure the success of the Palestinian peace plan. He stressed that Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state has symbolically and in reality put Egypt in the forefront of the countries supporting the Palestinian cause.

'Arafat's adviser pointed out that it is up to the PLO to open a Palestinian embassy in Cairo, after Cairo declared its full and legal recognition of the Palestinian state.

Dr Sha'th disclosed in his interview with AL-SIYASAH that the PLO had given the U.S. ambassador in Tunis specific information on the Israeli intelligence service's involvement in the crash of the Pam Am plane over Scotland last month.

'Arafat's adviser also called for the need to continue the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in order to keep a channel of communications open between the two sides, after the dialogue stopped following the Tunis meetings.

He noted that the United States had not demanded a halt to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

He said he expected the U.S. Administration under President Bush to be more flexible than that of former President Reagan, because the "circumstances have changed."

The Palestinian official considered any Soviet-Israeli rapproachement to be in the interest of the Palestinian cause, since this would enable the Soviets to take part in an international conference for peace.

PFLP Accuses Jordan of 'Inhuman Measures'
NC2801202789 Paris AFP in English 1947 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, Jan 28 (AFP)—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) accused Jordan on Saturday of "inhuman measures" against Palestinian political detainees.

"The Jordanian regime has recently intensified its repressive and inhuman measures against Palestinian political detainees, who are tortured and prohibited from receiving visits," the PFLP said in a statement released here.

"These detainees were apprehended more than a year ago for having shown their solidarity with the Palestinian uprising in the (Israeli) occupied territories," it added. It urged international human rights organisations to "pressure the Jordanian regime into halting these practices."

Last January the PFLP said that 56 of its members were arrested in Jordan.

Egypt

Envoy Denies Statement on Ties With Syria

JN3001073589 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 28 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Sa'id Rif'at has denied statements attributed to him that Egyptian-Syrian relations will most likely be resumed within days. He explained that he did not say this in his statement to AL-WATAN yesterday.

Talks With U.S. on Tabah Begin in Cairo 30 Jan

NC3001123689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and the United States started talks at the Foreign Ministry today to discuss subjects pertinent to the Tabah issue. The Egyptian side is led by Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, head of the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks, and includes Ambassadors Ibrahim Yusri, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department, and Hasan 'Isa, head of the Foreign Ministry's Israel Department.

The Americans are led by Patrick Norton, State Department assistant legal adviser.

Egypt has notified the American delegation of the need to fix a date for the Israeli withdrawal from Tabah, stressing that this withdrawal must not be related to the remaining outstanding matters regarding compensation for the hotel and other tourist facilities as well as the procedures regulating tourists' entry to and exit from the area.

Another round of talks is scheduled to be held tomorrow between Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Abraham Sofaer, U.S. State Department legal adviser, who is expected to arrive here this evening.

MENA has learned that the State Department legal adviser will bring with him U.S. proposals for ironing out the Egyptian-Israeli differences over Tabah.

Jordanian Delegation Arrives for Committee Talks

Headed by Al-Rifa'i

NC2801092689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived in Cairo this morning on a 2-day official visit during which he will head the Jordanian delegation to the ninth session of the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Committee.

Al-Rifa'i was met at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; the ministers of transport, communications, information, industry, and manpower; the minister of state for emigration affairs; and the minister of state for international cooperation. He was also met by high-ranking Army officers and the members of the Jordanian Embassy in Cairo.

During his visit to Egypt the Jordanian prime minister will be accompanied by a delegation consisting of Minister of Transport and Communications Khalid al-Haj Hasan, Minister of Labor Marwan Dudin, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham al-Khatib, Minister of Information Dr Hani al-Khasawinah, Minister of Higher Education Dr Nasr al-Din al-Asad, Minister of Interior Raja'i al-Dajani, Minister of Agriculture Yusuf Hamadan, Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi al-Tabba', Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat, Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Nabih al-Nimar, and Al-'Aqabah Port Authority Chairman Bassam Qaqish.

Al-Sharif on Meetings

NC2801174689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The ninth session of the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Committee opened under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i at the Prime Ministry before noon today.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Committee reviewed the successful, serious, and positive steps taken on the road of cooperation between the two fraternal countries in light of the directives of the two leaders, King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak.

He noted that committee discussions were characterized by an absolute eagerness to eliminate any impediments, which had obstructed the implementation of some of its recommendations, and to set timetables for their implementation.

In the field of economic cooperation and trade exchange, the information minister stated that the committee members discussed several subjects, including the completion of payment of the two sides' shares in the capital of the Egyptian-Jordanian Company for Investment and Development.

The conferees examined the company's plans regarding the production of meat, fodder, and seeds. The committee members also discussed ways to increase the volume of trade between the two countries to $350 million.

In the industrial sphere, the information minister pointed out that the committee members reviewed industrial coordination in the production of chemical fertilizers, electronic equipment, petrochemicals, manufacturing equipment, and spare parts. The committee decided to organize meetings between officials from the private industrial sector of both countries.

With regard to planning, the conferees decided to form a joint working group that will convene every 3 months to prepare a comprehensive study. This study will constitute the basis for a joint regional plan, especially between southern Jordan and Sinai.

In the domain of agricultural cooperation, al-Sharif said that the committee evaluated all the positive steps and future policy of cooperation in coordinating agricultural policy and promoting agricultural production.

In the field of mining and energy, the higher committee reviewed the economic and technical feasibility studies of the electrical grid project between the two countries.

Regarding transportation and communications, the higher committee discussed ways to develop services on the Al-'Aqabah-Nuwaybi' line, as well as ways to increase the capability of telephone and radio links.

In the field of cultural ties and education, the committee members reviewed the achievements in the program of the cultural and scientific cooperation.

In the information area, the conferees reviewed the mutual cooperation agreement concluded between the two countries' news agencies. The committee members also reviewed ways in which there could be joint cooperation this year between beamed radio broadcasts and joint television production, on the basis that 1989 will be an experimental year.

Regarding tourism, the information minister announced that the committee decided to form a joint tourist working group to provide tourist services and to facilitate border, passport, and customs procedures between the ports of Al-'Aqabah and Nuwaybi'. It also was decided to increase the movement of tourists between both countries.

Al-Rifa'i, Sidqi Confer

NC2801194189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi met with his Jordanian counterpart, Zayd al-Rifa'i, at his office this evening to review the draft resolutions and recommendations which the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Committee will issue at the conclusion of its ninth session tomorrow, Sunday.

Meanwhile, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has received Jordanian Minister of Information Dr Hani al-Khasawinah within the framework of the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Committee's meetings. During the meeting, a number of subjects of mutual interest to the two countries and relating to the higher committee's recommendations were discussed.

Foremost of these subjects is the coordination between the media authorities in both countries in the field of beamed radio broadcasts and joint television production in 1989.

Also among the issues discussed were the Egyptian Information Ministry's measures regarding the construction of microwave stations in the Al-Qasabah area to complete the link between the ground networks for television transmissions in both Egypt and Jordan in preparation for the relay of Egyptian transmissions to a number of other Arab countries.

The conferees also agreed to convene the Egyptian-Jordanian technical committee to draw up an executive program for the information cooperation protocol between the two countries.

The Egyptian and Jordanian information ministers are expected to hold several meetings in the next 2 days, at the conclusion of the higher committee's work, to take the necessary action to implement the committee's resolutions.

Statement on Talks

NC2801211489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has disclosed that he exchanged views with Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i on the proposed Arab economic grouping between Jordan, Iraq, the YAR, and Egypt.

In a statement following his second meeting with the Jordanian prime minister this evening, Sidqi said that the executive steps for this plan will be taken following its submission to King Husayn, President Saddam Husayn, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and President Husni Mubarak.

He added that the grouping is more or less of an economic nature. Sidqi stressed that it does not constitute an axis against anyone and that it is open to other Arab countries who wish to join it.

Zayd al-Rifa'i said that the grouping of the four states is a step toward economic and commercial integration, particularly as these countries have higher joint committees. He added that the idea of the grouping is to merge all these joint committees to operate at a quadripartite level.

Al-Rifa'i expressed hope that the grouping would be the nucleus for a broader Arab action which more countries will join. He stressed that there is an agreement on future steps, that will be announced.

Al-Rifa'i Meets Mubarak

NC2901074489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i at the Presidential Palace this morning. The Jordanian premier is chairing the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Jordanian Higher Joint Committee which is currently convening in Cairo.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the chairman of the Egyptian delegation to the talks, also attended the meeting.

President Mubarak hosted a working breakfast for the Jordanian prime minister.

Communique Signed

NC2901151289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 29 Jan 29

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—The final meeting of the ninth session of the Egyptian-Jordanian Higher Joint Committee was held this morning. The meeting began with a private session between Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, who were later joined by the two countries' delegations in an expanded session that was held at the cabinet offices.

At the end of the final meeting, Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Zayd al-Rifa'i signed a communique regarding the ninth session of the Egyptian-Jordanian Higher Joint Committee.

Following the meeting, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i stated that the cooperation between the two countries encompasses the spheres of economy, agriculture, transport, energy, higher education, information, tourism, and other fields. This cooperation, he added, will strengthen their joint progress, the foundations of which were laid by King Husayn and President Mubarak.

Al-Rifa'i said that the two countries are working together to elevate their joint march to the same level as the ambitions of their leaders and peoples.

He noted that they have agreed to pay their share in the capital of the holding company that will implement certain projects, including a project for raising beef cattle in Egypt and a project for producing legumes and agricultural seeds in both countries.

He added that it has also been agreed to take the necessary measures to safeguard the social insurance of Egyptians working in Jordan and to amend current legislation, if necessary, to maintain their insurance rights.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi said in a statement that the committee's achievements and the meetings which took place between the ministers of the two countries call for optimism and are for the benefit of the two fraternal people.

He added that preliminary consultations will be held to convene a joint meeting of the prime ministers of the four states of the Arab economic grouping so that the measures that must be taken to bring this grouping into existence can be studied.

On the Arab efforts regarding the Palestinian cause, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i explained that Egypt and Jordan are united in their stand on the Palestinian issue. He said that this stand supports the PLO in its efforts to find a just, permanent, and peaceful settlement of all aspects of the Palestinian issue and of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It also supports the convening of an international peace conference to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 with all the parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in addition to the Security Council's five permanent members.

The Jordanian prime minister stressed that the current Arab and Palestinian efforts are focused on the need to convene the international peace conference as a first step toward implementing UN resolutions and arriving at a peaceful settlement.

He also stressed that Egypt and Jordan will continue to work together and to make the biggest efforts possible in order that the Palestinian people achieve their national legitimate rights.

Meanwhile, Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Nabih al-Nimr held a luncheon this afternoon attended by the prime ministers of the two countries and the members of the two delegations.

Al-Rifa'i Leaves Cairo

NC2901165389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd Al-Rifa'i and the delegation accompanying him departed from Cairo this evening following a 2-day visit to Egypt, during which he participated in the meetings of the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Committee. [passage omitted]

'Abd Al-Majid Meets With Palestinian Delegation

NC2901164889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with a Palestinian delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani today. The delegation comprises Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo, and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, PLO charge d'affaires and Fatah Movement representative in Cairo.

Al-Surani said the meeting falls within the framework of the continuous consultations and exchanges between Egypt and Palestine. He added that the talks dealt with previous and future steps. He noted that the two sides reviewed the contacts that had taken place with the EC, the European move, and U.S. President George Bush's statement and interest in the Palestinian issue.

The Palestinian official went on to say that the two sides discussed the Arab move, the Arab summit, and the need to convene it at this stage, as well as Egypt's role in this regard. Al-Surani noted that the talks also touched on the Arab economic grouping embracing Egypt, Jordan, the YAR, and Iraq, and the outcome of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Spain.

On the declaration of the provisional government, Al-Surani said: We will proclaim it in the appropriate time.

Regarding the Palestinian contacts with the United States, Jamal al-Surani said that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue emphasizes the United States' recognition of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people. He reiterated that the Palestinian people's issue is summed up in their right to self-determination and to establish the Palestinian state for the sake of achieving a just and comprehensive settlement within the framework of an international conference.

The PLO Executive Committee official added that peace will not only ensure Israel's security, but the security of all the states in the region. Israel must realize that the use of force is fruitless.

Al-Surani called for the imposition of sanctions against Israel, and not merely the condemnation of its crimes. He pointed out that the Palestinian people suffer greatly and that the number of victims is increasing. He concluded: the international community should attain a radical solution to the issue through the convening of an international conference.

Al-Sharif Interviewed on Regional Ties

PM2401140489 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 20 Jan 89 p 37

[Interview with Information Minister Muhammad Safwat al-Sharif by Hasan 'Abd al-Khaliq; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Egypt has recognized the independent Palestinian state—a recognition which observers have deemed an official announcement of the death of part II of the Camp David accords. In the light of recent Cairo-PLO contacts, can we say that there is coordination between the two sides to speed up the convening of the international peace conference?

Al-Sharif: It is more than coordination because it was Egypt which took the initiative by urging the convening of an international conference. President Husni Mubarak undertook extensive demarches vis-a-vis the United States and the international community to secure public support for and positive stances on the convening of an international conference.

Egypt took other initiatives and adopted other stances in the past. Egypt has fully and objectively espoused the Palestinian cause ever since 1948. On this basis, Egypt's recognition of the independent Palestinian state is natural and normal. When Egypt granted its recognition, it did not make any reference to part I, part II, or part III of Camp David.

This was done because we transcended these matters when we called for the international conference, which transcends part I and part II of the Camp David accords. We must drop all these matters and look at the future in order to determine how a just solution to the Palestinian problem can be achieved and how the Palestinian people's legitimate rights can be restored.

AL-HAWADITH: Does Egypt expect the new Israeli Government to respond to peace endeavors, and will Tel Aviv's intransigence affect Egyptian-Israeli relations?

Al-Sharif: Egypt will deal with any Israeli Government, whether formed by the Likud or the Labor Party. Israel's policy is not influenced by one party or another and this has been proved over the years. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: There have recently been signs of detente between Cairo and Tripoli: Media campaigns have been stopped and Egypt's airspace has been opened to Libyan civil aviation. Are there any signs of a normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries in the near future?

Al-Sharif: Egypt has always worked to unite the Arab ranks and to free relations with its sisters of any blemishes. This was done because if a healthy climate and good intentions exist, matters can proceed correctly to secure a clear Arab stand and strengthen the Arab ranks' unity.

On this basis, media campaigns have been stopped and the airspace between Egypt and Libya has been opened. And we hope there will be good intentions and mutual trust because the Egyptian and Libyan peoples have always been fraternal throughout history. They are linked by ties of neighborhood and kinship. We hope that our dealings will improve.

AL-HAWADITH: It is being said that the Jordanian monarch is making endeavors to reconcile Egypt and Syria. What is the truth about this mediation and, in your opinion, what are the obstacles to detente between the two countries?

Al-Sharif: Media campaigns between Egypt and Syria have stopped. Indeed, we commit no injustices in our media but, rather, observe the protocol of dialogue and publish facts. We do this because some understand media campaigns to mean violation of the protocol of dialogue.

The Egyptian media have always been committed to the protocol of dialogue and to sober, truthful language, respecting all Arab brothers and leaders, despite any differences. The media state the truth and believe they are entitled to reveal the facts.

As for Jordan's mediation, we have always known the Jordanian monarch to be an Arab leader seeking to clarify Arab relations and unite Arab ranks. It is not new for him to perform such a role. And as I said about Libya, I hope that the ideas, attitudes, and vestiges of the past will be eliminated and that relations with Syria will improve and proceed on the right path. [passage omitted]

28 'Revolutionary Muslims' Killed in Prison

NC2901182389 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Recently, 28 Egyptian revolutionary Muslims have been martyred at the hands of the men of Husni Mubarak's regime in Al-Minya prison in Egypt, in mysterious circumstances. This was revealed by statements issued recently by the Muslim groups in Cairo, which held the interior minister of the ruling regime in Egypt responsible for the deaths of these Muslims.

Zaki Badr has recently issued orders to the police and security services to suppress the Islamic groups, but did not instruct them to first secure prior approval.

Security Chief on 'Ayn Shams Incidents

PM2401092689 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 18-24 Jan 89 p 11

[Interview with Cairo Chief of Security Major General Mamduh Bar'i by Siham 'Abd al-'Al in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] ['Abd al-'Al] What is the truth about the situation in 'Ayn Shams?

[Bar'i] That area is inhabited by the extremist groups denounced in the statement issued by the holy Al-Azhar ulema. They were joined by some common criminals and people with criminal tendencies. They had imposed their tyranny on the people of the area and imposed financial levies on people and on shopkeepers. They restricted people's freedom and beat some of them up.

That is the real picture of what was happening in 'Ayn Shams. That is why the security organs launched several campaigns to break the back of these lawless groups. In the arrest process Police Lieutenant General 'Isam al-Din Shams was assaulted. He and six other officers were martyred.

['Abd al-'Al] Were any arms discovered?

[Bar'i] Yes, the security authorities seized explosives and weapons in the area, comprising dynamite, highly flammable TNT, and many chains, edged weapons, and firearms. Thank God the fable of that outlaw group has now ended. The area's people are very relieved after the apprehension of many members of that group, as though a nightmare had come to an end.

Life has returned to normal there and people say their prayers at all times in mosques and other places. There is complete security there now.

['Abd al-'Al] There are conflicting reports and figures about the number of people arrested and what went on during the operation. What is the real figure?

[Bar'i] Only members of these extremist groups were arrested. If anyone was detained on suspicion, his case was promptly examined and he was released if found innocent. The number of people arrested so far in connection with the 'Ayn Shams incidents is only 350.

['Abd al-'Al] The security authorities in 'Ayn Shams used force and violence in their attack on the extremists and mosques there. How do you justify that?

[Bar'i] All the measures taken in the process of apprehending the extremists were legitimate and legal. There were no excesses whatsoever. Contrary to claims made by some sinister and ill-intentioned opposition papers, the police did not enter the mosques and there were no assaults on peaceful people.

Contrary to what happened in previous incidents in 'Ayn Shams—when some members of the public, including youngsters, who did not have full knowledge of the situation interfered and casualties occurred—in the recent incident public awareness was good and nobody interferred. There were no casualties among innocent people. That is how it should be because the security forces only tackle the outlaws.

['Abd al-'Al] The arrests in connection with the recent incidents have, as you have said, led to the discovery of large quantities of arms and explosives in the 'Ayn Shams area. Where were the security organs and why could they not discover them earlier?

[Bar'i] Large-scale investigations had been carried out and we knew where these arms and explosives were. When an Awqaf Ministry committee went to take possession of the Adam mosque from the extremist groups it discovered large quantities of explosives on the roof of the mosque. As in previous 'Ayn Shams incidents, some outlaws burned tires and explosive materials.

['Abd al-'Al] Why did the police, knowing where the arms and explosives were, not attack, and why the delay in dealing with the matter, which only aggravated the situation?

[Bar'i] In the beginning no laws were broken but when the situation deteriorated and people began to sense the groups' ill intentions they sent reports to the security authorities, which acted promptly and brought the situation under control.

The Interior Ministry only acts when the law is broken and legitimacy undermined. We prepared to act at the appropriate time with no harm to the public as in previous cases. The campaign was launched at the right time after careful investigations to protect the area's people.

['Abd al-'Al] But why were the security authorities slow in dealing their recent blow?

[Bar'i] Over the past period an attempt was made to reform and bring those people to their senses but when that failed we had no alternative but to act as we did.

['Abd al-'Al] An Interior Ministry report to the cabinet said that the extremist groups were trained abroad. Have any members trained abroad been arrested? And where were they trained?

[Bar'i] Everyone should know the truth, namely, that extremism is not an Egyptian characteristic. It was exported to us by states which wanted to undermine the country's security and stability. As the investigations into extremism cases revealed, one such state is Iran, which is trying to spread extremism.

However, the Egyptian security authorities are lying in wait for any attempt to jeopardize the country's security. Let it be known that the Egyptian security authorities are alert to any attempt to promote extremism among Egyptian youth.

['Abd al-'Al] What are the Interior Ministry's guarantees that the situation will not flare up in areas other than 'Ayn Shams?

[Bar'i] The responsibility here is shared by all government departments and not confined to the Interior Ministry alone. The Education Ministry, the Information Ministry, holy Al-Azhar and its ulema, the Awqaf Ministry, and the preachers all have their part to play. The others' role, however, begins with protection against any wave of extremism, whether it originates abroad or at home.

['Abd al-'Al] Is the 'Ayn Shams area really under control, with no possibility of a repetition of the incidents?

[Bar'i] We are keeping the situation under constant watch. Our observation is that the situation has calmed down since the arrest of the riot instigators and outlaws.

['Abd al-'Al] In your view, has the state been successful in tackling the extremist groups over the past period? Why has it abandoned the dialogue started by former Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha and resorted to violence, thus increasing extremism?

[Bar'i] The Interior Ministry believes in dialogue and persuasion. It only resorts to violence if the security of the country and the public is undermined. Now all government organs are fighting extremism. Holy Al-Azhar has issued a statement on the extremists and Egypt's prominent ulema have voiced their views on violence and the rejection of society.

The Awqaf Ministry and the ulema are currently playing a part by contacting the masses at universities, schools, mosques, and seminars. That is the best method of protection against extremism, before the phase of actually tackling it.

Shari'ah Seen as Key To Ending Violence

PM2501091389 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
17 Jan 89 pp 1,2

[Muhammad 'Abd al-Quddus report: "Shaykh al-Qardawi Reveals Secrets of Events Preceding Al-Azhar Statement"]

[Text] Shaykh al-Ghazali and Shaykh al-Qardawi have declared their rejection of any dialogue with the detainees inside the prisons on the grounds that prisons are not the right place and that such a move would be futile.

Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali said that a fair dialogue ought to be held in mosques and clubs, where there would be equal opportunities for talking and reacting and where those who ask questions and those who answer them would have freedom of thought and a clear conscience. He added: I would be ashamed before God if I were to argue out of fear or helplessness.

Shaykh Yusuf al-Qardawi said that it was futile to call for a dialogue within prison walls. A dialogue between a prisoner and his jailer is inconceivable, he said, and no self-respecting ulema should be a party to any such dialogue because he would lose his credibility and would be accused of being one of the government's ulemas and a police mouthpiece.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHA'B, his eminence said that the ulema statement issued at holy Al-Azhar is not, on its own, a sufficient expression of their views. He said, for the first time, that a summary of the proceedings of the meeting held between the Muslim ulemas and the awqaf minister should have been published before the statement was issued, or that a summary should at least have been given in the introduction to the statement, so that it could be seen in that light, uphold justice, and rectify matters.

Shaykh al-Qardawi said that he was in Qatar when Awqaf Minister Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub requested him to come urgently to Egypt to attend a meeting between prominent ulemas and some Islamic group leaderships for a dialogue on renouncing the practice of righting wrongs by force.

He added: The minister insisted that I should come, so I could not stay away. I considered the state's call for a dialogue between the ulemas and the Islamic leaderships—instead of putting the entire matter in the hands of the interior ministry and its organs—to be a healthy sign.

Shaykh al-Qardawi added: When I arrived I discovered that the meeting was confined to the ulemas, and the awqaf minister said that the Islamic groups' leaderships were to have attended the meeting, but it had been decided to let the ulemas meet first and then consider inviting the others.

The prominent Islamic scholar continued: At the meeting the ulemas, as usual, spoke out in support of what is right. At the beginning of the meeting I told my colleagues, the honorable ulemas: We, my shaykhs, must be blameless before God and not appease the government or yield to obduracy at the expense of justice.

I reminded them of the days of Sa'd Ibn Mu'adh and Bani Qarizah, when the latter wanted appeasement but Sa'd was required to be blameless before God.

Shaykh Yusuf al-Qardawi told AL-SHA'B that he had said during the meeting: We are against renunciation, and I wrote something to that effect not long ago. We reject violence, and I have denounced it in more than one book, but we want the state to make efforts to eliminate the causes of the phenomena of violence and renunciation, including taking urgent steps to implement the Islamic shari'ah in accordance with the Constitution, to respond to the religious people's appeals, and to respond to the will of Almighty God, because as Muslims and faithful men we have no other option. One of the main causes of tension is the contradiction that a Muslim sees between his faith and his reality.

We believe in the gradual implementation of the shari'ah laws, but there is a difference between gradual implementation and the current process of killing something. A gradual process means taking gradual, phased steps, with each phase leading to the next until full implementation is achieved.

At the meeting, the great Islamic scholar emphasized that it is important for the state to give freedom to the middle-of-the-road Islamic movement, which is the trend with deeper roots, a wider base, and more originality in the history of Islamic activity.

Shaykh al-Qardawi told the awqaf minister and the other conference participants that, if the statement is to be effective and acceptable and if our dialogue is to be effective and convincing, then it must be held in an atmosphere of security and freedom for the Islamic tendency, otherwise it will be like shouting in a valley or blowing into ashes, so to speak. He stressed the importance of releasing the detainees and said that the security organs should not be allowed to detain anyone released by the prosecution.

Concluding his statement to AL-SHA'B, Shaykh al-Qardawi said that the statement cannot, in itself, resolve the issue and may be described by the so-called extremist youth as being a service to the government and a justification for dealing a blow to all Islamic activity and to all Islamic groups, on the pretext of hitting at extremism.

There should have been a call for an expanded dialogue among all parties in an atmosphere of real freedom, broadcast live. We see all kinds of extremism in the world, but in civilized countries extremism is not met with extremism because that only fuels the fire.

Columnist on Conflict Within Lawyers Association

JN2501103189 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Jan 89 p 3

[Article by Samir Rajab: "The Law Is Being Butchered by the Defenders of Freedom"]

[Text] What is taking place in the Lawyers Association is both regrettable and shameful. The defenders of freedom and the law have turned into murderers, assailants with sticks and chairs, and violators of sanctities and rights!

I cannot understand how the courts of justice can any longer receive men who stand in the face of justice and threaten its very existence. I cannot imagine after what has happened a lawyer standing up and demanding acquittal for his client while he himself is torn asunder by his feeling of guilt.

Lawyers had complained once when the police attacked one or two of their members. What can they say now when they are quarreling with one another, exchanging blows, insults, and bullets and threatening each other with detention and forced signatures!

Their quarrel and clash on stands and interests was so serious that one group had sought police protection while others declared that they do not recognize the authority and procedures of the public prosecution!

So what can the government do in such a situation? How can it restore discipline within their ranks when they include men who have designated themselves dictators not wanting to listen to anyone who heeds any sound advice?

I am not here to go deep into their conflict. For I know, and they also know, that what is going on is aimed at settling certain odious party accounts. Proof is that the "leaders" of the conflict belong to a single political trend and they believe in its antiquated ideas!

These feeble leaders had thought they could rise above the law. So they raised the slogan of "not detaining the accused in certain cases!"

Unfortunately, they have all forgotten that the law in Egypt does not differentiate between one citizen and another.

The lawyer is no different from any other citizen before the law. If a charge is brought against him, he must prove his innocence. Because if he does not, he will have to face judgement.

These are the principles and the norms. The lawyers should have been fully aware of them more than anyone else for the simple reason that they are men of law!

So I cannot understand how these feeble "leaders" could allow themselves to stand in the courts and to demand the trial of ministers, governors, and so forth, but when the time of the real test comes they refuse to recognize the power and supremacy of the law.

At any rate, had the leaders of the Lawyers Association realized a long time ago that they are not a privileged class and that they are equal to all other factions, their association would not have witnessed such conflicts.

An association member would not have committed a single offense had he known that he would be punished for it. However, in the ensuing confusion, everything became possible.

It suffices that a person like Ahmad Nasir (a Wafdist) had dared to mobilize 200 lawyers and several other outside elements and to storm the association building and to destroy its doors, windows, and furniture.

He also dared to detain the lawful dean of the association, Ahmad al-Khawajah (a Wafdist), and to threaten him at gunpoint to leave his post. Yet, Ahmad Nasir knows full well that what he is doing is a crime under the law.

These are not all Ahmad Nasir's crimes. He jumped over the association building's fence, smashed the window of the secretary general, threatened him with a gun, and leveled insults at him and his assistant. Yet he knows that all these acts are punishable under the law.

The same thing can be said about Dr Muhammad 'Asfur (a Wafdist). 'Asfur could not have agreed to run the association in such a suspect atmosphere and in accordance with procedures which have not been proven legal had he not erroneously believed that he and other association members were different from the rest of mankind.

There remains a final word: I am sure that the overwhelming majority of lawyers, who do not belong to the wings of Ahmad Nasir, or 'Asfur, or Al-Khawajah, know their role very well. They fully believe that the law is the shield and protector of freedom and that any shock to the principle of equality is reflected on all members of the society.

Therefore, this overwhelming majority assumes the responsibility of improving the image of lawyers in Egypt, because the era in which a minority can impose its opinion on the majority has gone for good.

Libya

Algerian Delegation Arrives for Committee Talks

Merba Comments on Visit

LD2801143189 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Brother Kasdi Merba, prime minister of sisterly Algeria, and the delegation accompanying him, arrived in Tripoli at noon today for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah, during which he will attend the sixth session of the Joint Higher Executive Libyan-Algerian Committee.

The secretary of the General People's Committee and several of its members and the secretary of the Tripoli Basic People's Congress led those who welcomed the Algerian prime minister. [passage omitted]

Kasdi Merba is accompanied by a delegation consisting of the minister of agriculture; the minister of commerce; the minister of heavy industry; the minister of higher education; the minister of information and culture; the minister of interior and the environment; the minister of labor and social affairs; the minister of light industry; the minister of construction and urban planning; the minister of transportation; the chairman of the National Assembly Foreign Relations Committee; Brother Abdelkader Bensalah, general secretary of the ministry of irrigation; the general secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Petrochemical Industries; and a number of technicians and specialists at a number of ministries.

Brother Kasdi Merba expressed in a statement to JANA at Tripoli International Airport his pride in and appreciation of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

He said: My visit falls within the context of the regular unionist meetings of the Libyan-Algerian Higher Executive Committee. He confirmed that the visit will enable the two countries to consolidate the Arab unionist action on the road to the achievement of comprehensive Arab unity. In addition it will contribute to the consolidation of unionist action among the Arab Maghreb countries. [passage omitted]

Merba Hails 'Steadfastness'

LD2901101589 Tripoli JANA in English 0700 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 29 January 1989, JANA—The proceedings of the sixth session of the Higher Executive Committee started between the General People's Committee of the Great Jamahiriyah and the Council of Ministers of fraternal Algeria in Tripoli yesterday evening. [passage omitted]

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee delivered a speech; he began by welcoming the prime minister and the members of the Council of Ministers of Algeria. [passage omitted]

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee said that our joint unionist projects are progressing well with a sincere will and a strong determination to expedite the establishment of Arab unity as much as possible.

Brother Kasdi Merba, Algerian prime minister, delivered a speech in which he expressed thanks and appreciation of the members of the Algerian Government for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and the accompanying delegation.

He said: Our meeting in the Great Jamahiriyah, which is linked to us by fraternal ties and common history, occurs in special circumstances as in the recent past when U.S. aggrescion was committed against the Libyan Arab people, an aggression Algeria duly condemned.

Brother Kasdi Merba hailed the steadfastness and the bravery of the Libya Arab people in confronting the hostile U.S. threats. [passage omitted]

The Algerian prime minister expressed satisfaction with the tangible development and the unified steps which have been realized in all sectors. [passage omitted]

He stressed the need to give importance to the fields of information and culture; creative thought; enriching the intellectual heritage projecting the Arab and Islamic personality. He said our aim makes it imperative for us to intensify the work to remove administration and customs barriers, and provide the opportunities for developing trade exchanges.

Merba Meets Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2901125989 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Kasdi Merba, who is leading the Algerian delegation in the work of the sixth session of the Algerian-Libyan Committee in Tripoli, was received this morning along with his accompanying delegation by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution.

During the meeting a fruitful conversation took place dealing with bilateral relations and the situation in the area and issues of mutual interest.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi lauded the Algerian media role in supporting the Great Libyan Arab Jamihiriyah in its gallant opposition to the U.S. aggression in April 1986 and during recent days. He said in particular: It is a splendid role.

Cooperation Documents Signed

LD3000110100 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0945 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Jan (JANA)—The minutes of the sixth session of the Joint Higher Executive Committee of the General People's Committee in the Great Jamahiriyah, and of the Council of Ministers in fraternal Algeria, were signed in Tripoli this morning. The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee, and brother Kasdi Merba, chairman of the Council of Ministers, in fraternal Algeria.

The minutes provide for the free movement of persons between the two fraternal countries, and the merger of economic units, development projects, and joint companies. They also provide for financial and customs cooperation, as well as cooperation in the social, planning, cultural, tourist, education, scientific research, vocational training, manpower, health, youth, and sports fields. They also call for speedier implementation of earlier agreements and unionist projects.

The minutes of the meeting of the eighth session of the Libyan Arab-Algerian Follow-Up Committee, which discussed the progress of current cooperation between the two fraternal countries in all fields, were also signed. The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Works, and the brother minister of light industry in fraternal Algeria.

Morocco

King Hassan Reportedly Proposes 'Initiative'

JN2801171889 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 26 Jan 89 p 1

[By Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Excerpt] Informed Palestinian sources in Tunis told AL-ANBA' that King Hassan II of Morocco has communicated to Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, the outlines of an "initiative" that goes beyond proposals being floated.

The sources do not rule out the possibility that the initiative has been presented by the U.S. Administration.

Abu Iyad, expected back in Tunis today, spent 5 days in Rabat holding intensive talks with the Moroccan monarch, who had invited him personally and sent a private plane to fly him from Tunis to Morocco. The sources described Abu Iyad's visit as private and extraordinary.

King Hassan's contacts with the Palestinian leadership, the sources note, are confined to certain figures not including Abu Iyad, who is known to have played a key role in getting the PNC political statement passed by the last PNC session in Algiers. [passage omitted]

Government Denies Report on Hassan Statement

LD2801124289 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Rabat, 28 Jan (MAP)—The Moroccan Government has categorically denied a report carried by Midi-1 radio station, Radio Mediterranee, to the effect that King Hassan II was preparing himself to make, in the coming days, courageous statements to push forward the peace process in the Middle East should Israel recognize the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

The Moroccan Government has stated that these allegations are totally unfounded.

The Moroccan Government has also decided to take, henceforth, legal and administrative measures against any radio or television station which carries such reports to preserve the credibility of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Moreover, a spokesman for the Moroccan Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ministry has categorically denied a report carried by REUTER yesterday evening to the effect that the same spokesman had expressed his satisfaction with the statements made a Polisario official and said these allegations were totally unfounded.

REUTER had reported that a spokesman for the Moroccan Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ministry had expressed his satisfaction with the announcement made by the Marrakech-born Abdelaziz [Western Sahara president] on a truce in the Sahara for the month of February.

Sudan

Minister Reveals Talks With U.S., USSR

JN2701155289 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Doha, Jan 27 (GNA)—Sudanese Finance and Planning Minister 'Umar Nur al-Dayim has revealed that the Soviet Union and the United States are holding talks with his country to try to end the rebel war in southern Sudan.

Nur al-Dayim told Qatar's 'AL-RAYAH' newspaper that the current international atmosphere is suitable for holding such talks so that stability could prevail in the Horn of Africa.

Nur al-Dayim described the situation in south Sudan as a conspiracy against his country and accused Israel of being part of a plot to topple the whole regime by creating disturbances.

Nasir Reportedly Captured, Evacuated

SPLA Claims Capture

AB2701160089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] The strategic garrison town of Nasir, the province headquarters of Sobat province, fell to the gallant SPLA forces of the Unity Campaign last night at 2130 local time, 26th January. It is to be recalled that the Unity Campaign forces under the overall axis command of COS [chief of staff] Cdr William Nyuau Bany and zonal command of Cdr Gordon Kong Chuol, started the battle for Nasir last September, 1988.

Since then, the unity campaign forces captured the whole of Nasir town except the main Army barracks, where two heavily reinforced enemy battalions were in, and remained under the SPLA total seige with Khartoum unable to rescue them.

Seven days ago on 19th January, the SPLA commander in chief and the deputy of COS for operations and security joined the COS in the battle for Nasir. After seven days of tactical fighting, the enemy was finally expelled from Nasir yesterday in one hour of storm attack. The enemy fled, leaving their commander behind.

The Nasir garrison commander, Col Mahjub Munammad Musa, has been captured and SPLA forces are now in hot pursuit of the remnants who fled in disarray in different directions. The population between Nasir and Malakal are here asked to apprehend and take these fugitive soldiers to the nearest SPLA unit and respect their lives. Meanwhile, the commander in chief left Nasir this morning, leaving behind the COS and the deputy COS for operations and security and the zonal commander to continue the pursuit and exploitation operation.

In a message to radio SPLA, the commander in chief described the fall of Nasir as a political earthquake for the Sadiq and Turabi two-man clique government and demanded that the two resign and quit public life.

Armed Forces Evacuate Nasir

AB2801150989 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Jan (SUNA)—The Armed Forces have evacuated the defensive position [as received] from Nasir Town, in Upper Nile in the early hours of yesterday, Friday. A statement from the General Command of the People's Armed Forces said that the command had begun taking the necessary measures to deal with the situation.

The statement said that the evacuation came after unparalleled steadfastness and death defiance, which lasted for more than (?a week) [words indistinct] during which the outlaw forces suffered more than 1,000 killed and wounded, and the Armed Forces sacrificed more than 100 martyrs and about 300 wounded. Among them was the commander of the garrison, Col Mahjub Muhammad Musa.

The statement added that it had become impracticable to supply Nasir Town with equipment and [word indistinct] because of the protracted autumn weather conditions this year. The Armed Forces ammunition was depleted, and the combat situation was such that it was impossible to defend the garrison.

Army Launches Counterattack

JN2801111889 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan.28, INA—Sudanese forces this morning launched a counter attack to recover the barrack of Nasir town from rebel forces.

A high ranking Sudanese officer told INA correspondent that the Sudanese forces are determined to [words indistinct] for its strategic and logistical significance.

The General Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces, this morning held a joint meeting with the National Defence Council to discuss developments of fighting in Nasir town, 30km from the Ethiopian borders.

The defending Sudanese forces withdrew from the barrack yesterday because of shortage of ammunition and after battles that continued for 27 weeks to repulse the rebel forces.

A statement by the Sudanese General Command said that 100 soldiers were killed and 300 others injured during the battles including the barrack commander Colonel Mahjub Muhammad Musa and that rebel forces suffered more than 1000 casualties.

Council Holds Emergency Meeting on Evacuation

AB2901074189 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The Armed Forces military spokesman has announced that the National Defense Council held an emergency meeting this morning at the General Command Headquarters. The meeting, chaired by the prime minister, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, heard a comprehensive report on the circumstances that led to the withdrawal from the Nasir garrison on Friday [27 January] morning.

The council initiated the necessary measures and steps to bring the situation under control and recapture the Nasir garrison. The defense minister, General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, retired, will make a detailed statement on the issue to the Constituent Assembly next Tuesday.

Southern MP's Agree To Join Government

EA2801084289 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1445 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Eight members of the Union of the Sudan African Parties, USAP, are reported to have agreed to join the new government. All the eight gentlemen are said to be members of the People's Progressive Party, PPP, whose leader, Eliaba James Surur, is the leader of USAP.

An MP from the PPP, Lawrence Modi Tombe, told reporters yesterday that the gentlemen had reached an agreement with the prime minister to join the new government on the basis that he would undertake a peace initiative to end the war in the south.

He said that the government had also agreed to freeze the Islamic laws until after the constitutional conference and he added that if the government fails to fulfill these promises, they would withdraw from the government again.

Western Sahara

Polisario Announces 'Unilateral Military Truce'

LD2701195389 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] To encourage the dialogue with King Hassan II, the Polisario Front decided on a unilateral military truce during the next month. This was announced by Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz in an interview to be published tomorrow by the French magazine LE POINT.

President Mohamed Abdelaziz sees that in order for the Maghreb summit, which is to be held in Marrakech on 15 February, to succeed, it must be preceded by an agreement between the Polisario and Morocco, which will have a second meeting in the next few days.

The Polisario Front No 1 Mohamed Abdelaziz said: The agreement I mean can be built on the basis of the joint exploitation of Saharan resources.

In his statement to the French magazine LE POINT, Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz affirmed that the independent Sahara would never be a problem to Morocco, either in the economic or security fields.

The Saharan official discounted the establishment of self-rule for the Sahara within the framework of the Kingdom, as suggested by the Moroccan sovereign, King Hassan II.

As Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz put it: The Sahara must either be independent or Moroccan.

A few moments earlier, Morocco welcomed the truce announced by the Polisario front. The Moroccan Foreign Ministry spokesman described the Saharan decision as a proof of goodwill.

Further on Truce

LD2801140989 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] A statement issued today by the SDAR Information Ministry says that SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz has ordered a unilateral truce during the month of February along all battlefronts in the Western Sahara.

The statement explains that this truce constitutes a contribution from the SDAR toward providing favorable conditions for the success of the Maghreb summit, in which the Saharan side will be taking part in one way or another.

The SDAR statement says Saharan participation in the Maghreb summit will be defined during the coming meeting between Moroccan King Hassan II and SDAR officials.

Kuwait

Minister Denies Oil Production Quota Violated

JN2801172489 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 27 Jan 89 p 1

[By Ahmad Basha]

[Text] Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi al-Sabah has emphasized Kuwait's full commitment to the recent OPEC agreement on quotas and production.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM yesterday, the minister vehemently denied what was reported about Kuwait's violation of its production quota for this month, which is fixed at 1.036 million barrels per day. He said Kuwait is producing its fixed quota exactly and without any increase. IRNA yesterday claimed that "Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE have exceeded their fixed quotas, which will make OPEC's production in January more than the agreed ceiling."

The minister urged IRNA to be accurate in its reports. He expected the world oil prices to remain at their present level for some time. He said that the level of prices in the future will depend on the extent of the OPEC member states' commitment to the fixed quotas according to the agreement recently concluded among them. This agreement fixed the production ceiling at 18.5 million barrels per day for the first half of 1989 and fixed the basic price at $18 per barrel.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Arab League Session

LD2801110189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0930 GMT 27 Jan 89

[text] Kuwait, Jan 28 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Saturday said ending the complicated situation in Lebanon first and foremost depends on the Lebanese themselves and the degree they respond to their Arab brothers' efforts.

Shaykh Sabah, in a statement to KUNA on departure for Tunisia to head meetings of the six-member Arab League committee, stressed that "without such real and true response, there will be no solution to that sistery country's ordeal."

Shaykh Sabah said that "we and all Arab brothers sincerely hope that the Lebanese brothers would realize, particularly after 14 years of fuedal fighting, that continuation of the situation does not only harm them but negatively affects the whole Arab world, its security and stability."

He added that it was only natural to have an Arab plan to save Lebanon, after the Lebanese agree among them on settling the crisis.

Shaykh Sabah disclosed that the committee made numerous contacts with all international concerned parties with the situation in Lebanon.

He underlined that all have backed finding a solution to the crisis and expressed readiness to cooperate in reaching the aspired-for settlement.

The deputy premier, however, renewed that all such efforts will be secondary and supportive compared to the Lebanese positive response to the exerted efforts "because they are more important than all parties together."

Shaykh Sabah is scheduled to head Sunday a meeting at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis for the six-member committee that groups along with Kuwait, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, United Arab Emirates and the Sudan along with Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

A preliminary meeting is slated Monday between the committee members and Lebanese premiers of the civilian and military governments and the parliament speaker.

Shaykh Sabah is accompanied by director of the ministry's Arab Nation Department 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan and director of his office 'Abd al-Sa'ud 'Abd al-Razzak.

He was seen off by State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Sha'in, directors of departments and the Lebanese and Tunisian ambassadors to Kuwait.

Columnist Criticizes Spread of Israeli Goods

JN2401104889 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 20 Jan 89 p 5

["Good Morning" column by Farhan al-Waqyan: Where is the Arab Bureau for Boycotting Israel?"]

[Excerpt] Every day we find ourselves with a new Israeli commodity penetrating our markets and spreading widely, with nobody knowing anything about it. However, when the buyer scrutinizes his purchase, he finds that it is Israeli made, carries an Israeli label, has a name in Hebrew or there are other signs.

Here we ask what about the role of the Arab Bureau for Boycotting Israel, and why this negligence? Is it reasonable for Israeli commodities to invade Arab, Gulf, or Kuwaiti markets so easily? These commodities are Israeli-made, and those working in the Bureau for Boycotting Israel must fully realize this fact and its gravity. They must ask how these commodities entered our markets and under what cover.

The only interpretation is collusion. Yes, collusion. This should prompt us to reshuffle the bureau staff to let them know their role fully and appreciate their national

responsibility. From this premise, they must protect the country from the evil of these commodities, which may have objectives and purposes harming our society and citizens. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Denies Report on 'Secret' Talks With Iran

LD2701185589 Riaydh SPA in Arabic 1809 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Jan (SPA)—In reply to the article in the Tunisian paper "AL-I'LAN" on Friday morning under the title "Saudi-Iranian Agreement," an authoritative source said in a statement to SPA that there was absolutely no truth in the article issued by the Tunisian paper "AL-I'LAN" to the effect that secret negotiations had been taking place for a while in one of the European capitals between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran and that consequently the article issued by the paper, quoting what it called the latest reports regarding an agreement between the two states on a number of points, was completely fabricated.

The source added: The Kingdom has already announced at the highest level that it did not wish to create any problem with any state. When the kingdom decides to hold a meeting with any other state, it will not resort to secret methods, but will announce it in line with its clear and well-known policy.

'Oil Source' Denies Violation of OPEC Agreement

JN2901201689 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 28 Jan 89 pp 1, 20

[Excerpts] Riyadh—AL-SIYASAH—Every now and then, some international news agencies carry various items about a violation of the latest OPEC agreement by the GCC countries, especially by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

An informed oil source told AL-SIYASAH that Saudi Arabia offered a lot of financial sacrifices, estimated at $109 billion, to assume the role of deciding producer and maintain the unity, cohesion, and solidarity of OPEC. The source condemned such reports, describing them as a kind of falsehood and procrastination, as some countries with counter interests were annoyed by the immediate reaction to the latest OPEC agreement, which resulted in a return to the increase of oil prices. [passage omitted]

The source said that Saudi Arabia is now determined more than ever before to implement the OPEC agreement in letter and spirit in view of the material loss it suffered over the past years as a result of others failing to abide by their quotas.

The source disclosed that the Kingdom is doing its best to contact oil producing countries outside OPEC to urge them to reduce their production to help support the oil market and show the unity of all producers.

The source named the countries with which Saudi Arabia held extensive contacts recently in order to support the oil market. These are Egypt, Oman, Mexico, Norway, Algeria, and Iraq. This is in addition to the talks with the Venezuelan president-elect during his recent visit to Riyadh and his lengthy meeting with King Fahd.

The 13 OPEC members reached the latest agreement unanimously, the first such unanimity since 1983.

United Arab Emirates

Turkish Armed Forces Chief of Staff Makes Visit

JN2801164289 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 28 (GNA)—Turkish Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. General Necip Torumtay arrived today for a visit to the UAE.

He was met at the airport by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, senior Army officers and Turkish Ambassador to the UAE Tugay Ulucevik.

Torumtay's visit is at the invitation of General al-Badi.

Confers With Counterpart

JN2901124889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Jan (WAKH)—Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, UAE chief of staff of the Armed Forces, met here this morning with Lieutenant General Necip Torumtay, Turkish chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and the military delegation accompanying him which is currently visiting the UAE. They exchanged views on military issues of mutual interest. They also exchanged souvenirs.

The meeting was attended by a number of senior Army officers and Turkish ambassador to the UAE, Tugay Ulucevik.

Meets With Defense Minister

JN3001110889 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Defense Minister His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum received in his office this morning General Necip Torumtay, chief of staff of the Turkish Armed Forces who is currently visiting the country.

The discussion during this meeting dealt with a number of topics related to strengthening military cooperation between the UAE and Turkey and the possibility of the exchange of expertise in military technology between the two countries, especially in the fields of training and armament.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, director of the Civil Aviation Department in Dubai; Brigadier General Shaykh Muhammad ibn 'Ubayd al-Maktum, under secretary of the Defense Ministry; and Tugay Ulucevik, the Turkish ambassador to the UAE.

UN Representative Jan Eliasson Makes Visit

Arrives in Basra

JN2701165489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Basra, 27 Jan (INA)—Jan Eliasson, representative of the UN secretary general, held a meeting today at the Basra Airport hall with senior international observers during which they discussed means to implement the cease-fire on land between Iraq and Iran and means to bolster it.

Following that, Eliasson flew at low altitude over Shatt al-'Arab down to Al-Faw aboard a UN airplane.

Eliasson was received at Basra airport by 'Ismat Kittani, Iraq's UN representative, the assistant Army chief of staff, and the head of the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Travels to Baghdad

JN2701171089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1653 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—Jan Eliasson this evening arrived in Baghdad from Basra accompanied by General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN observers team, and 'Ismat Kittani, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, aboard a private Iraqi airplane.

In Baghdad, Eliasson will hold talks on strengthening the cease-fire on land and implementing it at sea. The talks will also deal with other clauses in UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Confers With Tariq 'Aziz

JN2801170889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Iraq's firm, principled stand on Resolution 598 is clear, known, and needs no explanation or confirmation. He said that Iraq's firm, principled stand on settling the conflict with Iran through talks and according to international law is clear and has been known since the start of the conflict and throughout the years of war which was ignited by the Iranian regime—which, encouraged by its expansionist ambitios, insisted on continuing it for 8 years.

During a meeting today with Jan Eliasson, special envoy of the UN secretary general, the foreign minister added that ending the war is now possible after Iraq has succeeded in repulsing the expansionist Iranian aggression, proved its supremacy on the battlefield, and liberated its territory, which the Iranian regime insisted on occupying and controlling as a springboard to control all of Iraq. He said that these facts constitute an important part of the history of the conflict, the whole world knows these facts, and they are documented.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that among the most important reasons that have made the cease-fire and its continuation possible throughout the past months are Iraq's strength and capability, in addition to its firm, principled peaceful stand.

The foreign minister pointed out that the Iranian regime is required to prove its intentions by deeds, which practically lead to peace. He said that the way the Iranian regime has so far dealt with negotiations casts deep and serious doubts about its true intentions. He added that the Iranian regime's stand on the freedom of navigation, the clearing of Shatt al-'Arab, and the exchange of prisoners of war, are all unequivocal proof of its bad intentions.

He said that this regime has thus far refused to accept what should be accepted and respected within the framework of the cease-fire process, continued to maneuver and blackmail these vital issues which entrench the cease-fire, and has only chosen the steps it likes without abiding by the text and spirit of Resolution 598 and its ultimate objectives as a peace plan.

Tariq 'Aziz asserted that the Iranian regime has continued to disseminate lies on the progress of talks in a manner that conflicts with the objective approach that should prevail in negotiations to make them lead to a true, comprehensive, and lasting peace according to UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

He added that the Iranian regime's stand on the exchange of prisoners of war, its rejection of the third Geneva Convention, and its insistence on keeping tens of thousands of prisoners of war in detention with no legal justification prove this regime's immoral and hideous course which is based on lack of respect for international law, on violating humanitarian values, and on living on cheap blackmail and compromise.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the UN secretary general and Jan Eliasson are before a major task of making Iran understand its commitments in accordance with Resolution 598 and international law, particularly regarding the release of prisoners of war, freedom of navigation, and all the essential issues included in Resolution 598.

He said that the negotiations should be resumed and that Iraq is ready to resume them at the time set by the UN secretary general. He said that there must be no conditions, because any condition that may be set to resume negotiations is considered a flagrant violation of Resolution 598 and of the agreement signed by both sides under the auspices of the UN secretary general on 8 August 1988, which led to the cease-fire and direct negotiations.

The deputy prime minister said that the Iranian side should relinquish its empty and baseless propaganda maneuvers and that it should come to the coming negotiations with a practical spirit and good intentions so that both sides can, under the auspices of the UN secretary general, begin the implementation of Resolution 598 and the achievement of the ultimate aspired goal, which is a comprehensive and lasting peace.

The foreign minister emphasized Iraq's firm stand on cooperating with the UN secretary general and his representative, Jan Eliasson, to achieve this objective.

During the meeting, Eliasson reviewed the results of his talks with the Iranian officials before he left for Baghdad. In a statement to INA, he said: We have discussed the peace process, mainly the pillars of Resolution 598, which constitutes the basis for our talks. We have also discussed some of the basic elements of the resolution. As you know, we have not yet achieved full implementation of the first clause of Resolution 598.

He added: We have discussed this issue several times, in addition to the exchange of prisoners of war. I do not want to discuss the major obstacle to the implementation of Resolution 598. However, all I can say is that we are doing our utmost for the sake of quick and comprehensive implementation of the resolution. I found the thorough discussion with the Iraqi side useful and fruitful. The talks are scheduled to resume at the Foreign Ministry today.

Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN2901143289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1302 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 29 (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Jan Eliasson, representative of the UN secretary general, this morning. Eliasson conveyed a written message from UN Secretary General Xavier Perez de Cuellar to President Saddam Husayn.

At the beginning of the meeting, Eliasson expressed his appreciation and that of the UN secretary general for Iraq's constructive cooperation with the UN observer forces and the good facilities it provides for these forces to enable them to perform their duties. Eliasson also praised the wise unilateral decision by President Saddam Husayn to free 255 Iranian prisoners of war.

Eliasson presented to the president a review of the outcome of his visit to Iran and his talks with Iranian officials. He also presented some ideas and proposals to proceed with the peace process and the implementation of Resolution No 598.

The president told Eliasson that Iraq, out of a desire to make Eliasson's mission successful, to affirm its cooperation with the United Nations and its secretary general, and to make the cease-fire firm, decided to agree to the formation of the mixed military commission proposed by the secretary general. President Saddam Husayn also decided to lift the ban that Iraq had declared on air navigation to Iran.

Eliasson expressed his high appreciation for these two steps, which prove that Iraq's aim toward enhancing the peace process is serious.

During the 4-hour meeting, President Saddam Husayn explained the historical background, substantiated by documents and facts, that emphasizes Iraq's frim and sincere desire to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace based on the principle of equality. This desire has not changed according to circumstances and the military balance of power throughout the war.

The president stressed that Iraq, on the basis of this clear and firm background, is seriously and honestly seeking to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace on the bases of international law, the UN Charter, and the spirit and letter of Resolution No 598 in order to ensure the legitimate rights, dignity, and sovereignty of both sides.

While Iraq stresses its concern about and firm adherence to these principles, including its legitimate rights, the other side is required to show the same extent of concern about peace and commitment to these principles. This should be proved by actions and tangible steps, especially since the Iranian side lacks a historical background of the desire for genuine peace. It had insisted on continuing the war and on expanding for many years until recently, when it declared its acceptance of Resolution No 598 and of a cease-fire under known circumstances. Verifying the truth of the Iranian stand through tangible developments is a practical necessity for the march of peace.

President Saddam Husayn explained the military and political developments that led to the cease-fire. Those developments underlined and are underlining the principled nature of Iraq's stand and genuine desire for peace.

Eliasson expressed his understanding of Iraq's position and stressed the need for continuing negotiations to implement Resolution No 598 on the basis of the agreement between the Iraqi and Iranian sides under the supervision of the secretary general on 8 August 1988.

President Saddam Husayn stressed Iraq's readiness to continue negotiations without any conditions, and said Iraq rejects any conditions that the other side may put for their continuation. He said that the negotiations must aim at reaching a joint understanding by the two sides under UN supervision of the provisions of Resolution No 598 in a way that helps achieve genuine peace.

President Saddam Husayn asked Eliasson to convey his greetings to the UN secretary general and his appreciation for his efforts to bring about peace. It was agreed to continue contacts shortly.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN3001093089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—Jan Eliasson left Baghdad this morning after a 4-day visit to Iraq within the framework of a mission commissioned by the UN secretary general with regard to the bilateral negotiations between Iraq and Iran.

In a statement to INA, Eliasson said that his talks in Baghdad were comprehensive and useful. He said: I had the opportunity to meet with President Saddam Husayn, Tariq 'Aziz, and a number of senior officials to discuss ways to implement UN Resolution No 598. We discussed issues related to international law and implementation of certain paragraphs of this resolution.

Eliasson added that he recorded a positive remark on Iraq's full commitment to the comprehensive implementation of the UN resolution and its cooperation with the UN secretary general in this regard. He said: We appreciate Iraq's cooperation with the UN observation team and I am looking forward to an early start on the work of the mixed military committee.

Eliasson welcomed Iraq's decision to lift the ban on civil aviation to Iran.

He expressed his hope and that of the UN secretary general to meet with the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers in Geneva to resume talks on implementing the Security Council resolution. He said he hopes that Iraq's steps regarding the release of a group of Iranian prisoners of war and lifting the ban on civil aviation to Iran will improve the atmosphere surrounding the ongoing efforts to implement the articles of Resolution No 598, whose first article we are still working to implement.

Eliasson added: I believe we should exert more efforts regarding the issues related to implementing this resolution. However, he added, I am pleased with the existence of steps that will improve and clear the atmosphere and pave the way for better opportunities to continue the talks.

Eliasson affirmed that he is is working continuously to resume the talks in Geneva. He said: There is great hope that the talks will resume in the near future. The UN envoy expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Iraqi people and officials. He said he hopes to visit Iraq again while the cease-fire is still effective to achieve further steps to promote the peace process. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH Cited on Iran's Stand on Peace

JN3001125289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Iran must prove its good intentions on achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace with Iraq. Iran should prove this through tangible steps. The Iraqi newspaper adds in a leading article today that Iran is called upon to express its readiness to continue negotiations with Iraq without any preconditions and to accept the negotiations with a positive spirit as peace cannot be achieved through good intentions alone but through tangible acts and steps within the negotiations as well as outside them.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms Iraq's eagerness to render Jan Eliasson's mission a success. The newspaper adds that Iraq has expressed this eagerness through clear steps and a sincere desire.

President Saddam Husayn announced yesterday, Sunday, his agreement on the formation of a mixed military commission proposed by the UN secretary general and the decision to lift the ban, declared during the war, on air navigation to Iran.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Iraq seeks peace and its peaceful stands are numerous. These peaceful stands cannot be affected and do not change with circumstances or military balances. However, the paper adds, Iraq will not relinquish its just, legitimate rights. The paper affirms that Iraq does not want to encroach on the other sides' rights, dignity, and sovereignty.

The Iraqi newspaper calls on Iran to demonstrate the same concern for peace expressed by Iraq and to embark on tangible steps and moves. AL-JUMHURIYAH urges Iran to move toward the negotiations with a positive spirit in order to reach, together with Iraq, a common understanding of the provisions of Resolution No 598 under the UN supervision in a way that will help achieve the final objective of the resolution—that is, comprehensive and lasting peace.

AL-JUMHURIYAH calls on Iran to abandon the selective method in dealing with Resolution No 598 and to refrain from obstructing the negotiations and setting conditions. The paper says: Iran will gain nothing, but it will waste time. Iran will be responsible for this, the paper adds.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that proving good intentions comes through entrenching the cease-fire on land, at sea, and in the air; recognizing Iraq's right to unobstructed freedom of navigation in the Shatt al-'Arab and the Strait of Hormuz; and dredging the Shatt al-'Arab.

Rabin Expresses Willingness To Alter Peace Plan

TA3001141389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he is willing to change his plan for the territories: Instead of making elections conditional upon calm being achieved beforehand, he is willing to see calm prevail after an agreement is reached on the whole process outlined in his plan.

After such an agreement is reached, there will be a need for a calm, so as to enable elections in the territories. In these elections, the residents will be able to set up their representation for negotiations on an interim period, and later, for a permanent solution.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1330 GMT on 30 January in a similar report cites Defense Minister Rabin as saying: "I am willing to hold talks now to reach an agreement on the process. When an agreement on the process is achieved, calm must start; because, in my opinion, if free elections are desired, they cannot be held in an atmosphere of violence—not only between Arabs and Jews, but also between the Arabs themselves. That is why this agreement should be made in its entirety. Once it is reached, the period of calm would start together with preparations for the elections, the elections, negotiations for an interim period, the interim period itself, and after an agreed period of time, negotiations for the permanent arrangements."]

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Minister Rabin made these remarks at a meeting with members of the Alignment Knesset faction. He noted that Israel must make known as soon as today what it is prepared for in negotiations and with whom it is willing to sit at the negotiating table. It is impossible to have a policy without determining these two issues, said Rabin. He noted that his plan is not new, and that it is based on the government's guidelines, which contain a promise to strive for peace.

He added that during his tenure as defense minister he has met hundreds of Palestinians on dozens of occasions, and suggested they take their fate and future in their hands. In most cases, the response was that the interlocutor for talks is the PLO, because if the Palestinian he was talking to would agree to negotiate with him, he would be murdered by the PLO.

Rabin added that today, more than ever, talking with residents of the territories is possible, but they should be presented with a plan that would be the government's position rather than the stand of one person or another.

At the same time, Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, and heads of the Civil Administration today met with Palestinian notables from the Gaza Strip and discussed the defense minister's plan with them. They also discussed the proposition of holding elections in the territories. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the Palestinians did not reject the plans altogether, and that this fact is most encouraging.

Shamir 'Trusts' Rabin

TA2901210189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin intends to intensify his efforts to implement his political plan. In the course of his efforts, he will frequently meet Palestinian notables from the territories. This was learned by our political correspondent this evening.

The prime minister's office this evening reported that the prime minister has complete confidence in the defense minister's discretion regarding meetings with notables from the territories.

In today's Cabinet session, several ministers criticized the meeting between the coordinator of activities in the territories and Faysal al-Husayni in the Kefar Yona prison. From the studio, our correspondent Yig'al Goren reports:

Despite the criticism leveled at his political plan by the prime minister as well as by Palestinian notables, the defense minister will intensify his efforts for its implementation. He will initiate additional meetings in the near future with Palestinian notables in the territories as he has already done in the past.

The prime minister, who last week expressed opposition to Rabin's plan and to its publication in the media, said this evening that he trusts Rabin's reasoning regarding meetings with Palestinian notables.

In response to criticism leveled by ministers David Levi, Yitzhaq Moda'i, and Ehud Olmert, on the meeting between the coordinator of activities in the territories and Faysal al-Husayni, Rabin said today in the Cabinet session that any achievements of the PLO in the international arena must be prevented and that the whole process will become more positive if the focus is placed on the residents of the territories.

Vice Prime Minister Peres, commenting on Goren's meeting with Al-Husayni, said this evening that in the general state of desolation of the political situation, this may be something. Al-Husayni is a serious man. His arrest was a negative decision, and his release is not necessarily a solution.

In connection with this matter, it must also be stated that the prime minister and the foreign minister both support holding elections in the territories in principle, but have not yet formulated a position on their date and form.

It appears that the defense minister does not intend to wait for them and intends to strive actively in the near future to move the focus of attention from the PLO in Tunisia to the local leadership in the territories through ongoing meetings with senior local representatives.

Gur on Peace Process, Meetings With PLO

NC2801223589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—Mordekhay Gur, Israeli minister of state, and one of Israel's Labor Party leaders, has stressed that the Palestinian uprising should be confronted politically, not militarily.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Sunday [29 January], Gur described recent developments in the PLO stand as very positive. He said that it would be better for the Labor Party and the Likud bloc to advance forward and not collide with obstacles.

He added: In general, if the Israeli Government rejects the available opportunities to give an impetus to the peace process, then there should be the possibility of holding elections to form a new government.

The Israeli minister said that meetings between members of the Israeli Knesset and PLO representatives create an atmosphere of understanding and give an impression inside Israel that understanding of and talks with the PLO will not lead to a catastrophe, but will bring about mutual confidence that will advance the peace process.

Palestinian Leader Faysal al-Husayni Released

No Comment on Goren Meeting

TA2901095289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni was released a short while ago from the Kefar Yona detention center after serving a term of 6 months in administrative detention.

Upon leaving the prison, Al-Husayni refused to comment on the report that while in prison he conferred with Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories.

Referring to possible elections in the territories, Al-Husayni said that the PLO would agree to such elections only if they are guaranteed to be free and under the supervision of an external element such as the United Nations.

He noted that he has no complaints on his detention conditions. He is now on his way home. Later, he intends to meet with Palestinian leaders in the territories.

Denies 'Deal' Made

TA2901120289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni returned home a short time ago. Reporter Shlomo Berger was there:

Faysal al-Husayni arrived home a short time ago and talked to reporters. He was released from prison in Kefar Yona, near Netanya, at 1030 this morning. Al-Husayni said he was not released as part of a deal with the Israeli authorities, but rather that his 6-month term in administrative detention ended today.

Al-Husayni would not directly say what his position is on Defense Minister Rabin's peace plan. He did say that he would agree to free and democratic elections in the territories under UN auspices and with no interference from Israel. Asked if he would agree to a period of quiet before elections as proposed by Rabin, Al-Husayni said there must be no such preconditions for elections.

Al-Husayni said he has not yet considered whether he would participate personally in elections.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 29 January adds that upon emerging from jail, Al-Husayni said that "the current acts of violence being perpetrated as part of the uprising in the territories would stop in conjunction with an Israeli readiness to comply with political demands. He added that the goal is not violence for the sake of violence, but rather the attainment of political objectives."]

Comments on Rabin Plan

TA2901162889 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni by Dan Margalit—live in the studio]

[Text] [Margalit] Jews greet a man being released from prison with the blessing: The Eternal sets free those who are bound. And you were released from jail today. What was your daily routine in jail?

[Al-Husayni] I would read books and newspapers, watch television, listen to the radio, and wait.

[Margalit] If you read newspapers, you probably read about Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's plan for a settlement, at least an interim one, until a federative link is ultimately established between Israel and the territories and Jordan. What is your position concerning Rabin's plan?

[Al-Husayni] I think what we have in mind is the solution of the entire Palestinian problem, and not just part of it. We know the problem is that of the conflict [last word in English] between the Palestinian people and

the Jewish people. The Palestinian people are one people consisting of those who live here, in the West Bank and in Gaza, as well as of those living outside. We are all one people.

[Margalit] In other words, if I read you correctly, what you are saying is that you do not accept this plan because it does not ultimately lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state?

[Al-Husayni] That is correct. The way I see it, this plan will not fulfill the goals of the Palestinian people in terms of a Palestinian state, which is the problem of the Palestinian people. We must solve this problem, and the venue for such a solution must be a homeland.

[Margalit] In his plan, the defense minister also mentions that 3 to 6 months after the end of the intifadah [uprising] free elections would be held by the Palestinian Arabs residing in the territories. What is your position on this point in particular?

[Al-Husayni] The problem is not that of the intifadah or of the events in the West Bank and Gaza. The problem is that of the Palestinian people, a large part of whom are living in exile. As I told you, we must find a solution to this problem by means of a homeland.

[Margalit] Your position on this issue is clear, but what is your position on the possibility that one of the main stages would be holding elections?

[Al-Husayni] If these elections meet our conditions, we will agree to hold them. Unfortunately, however, Rabin's plan does not meet our conditions.

[Margalit] Did Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of activities in the territories, discuss Rabin's plan when he came to visit you in jail?

[Al-Husayni] Did Mr Shmu'el Goren tell you that he came to visit me?

[Margalit] I read about it in MA'ARIV on Friday, and nobody has yet denied the report. The way I know Israeli politicians, had it not been true they would have denied it.

[Al-Husayni] I read the paper too, and it also said that Mr Goren refused to comment on the issue, either to confirm or to deny it.

[Margalit] And are you doing the same?

[Al-Husayni] I am doing the same.

[Margalit] Nevertheless, upon leaving jail today, you were quoted on the Voice of Israel as saying that you discern a positive change in the position of Israelis toward the Palestinian problem, and that you even perceive a positive change in the position of Israel's leadership. What is that change?

[Al-Husayni] I would like to mention two points. The first is that people are currently talking about the Palestinian problem rather than about finding a security or military solution. That is good; that is a step forward.

[Margalit] And what is the second point?

[Al-Husayni] The second point is that there are now ministers and an increasing number of Knesset members who talk about the need for negotiations with the PLO.

[Margalit] Who are those ministers, in addition to 'Ezer Weizman?

[Al-Husayni] I heard about 'Ezer Weizman, who spoke about it openly. I heard about more open things from other ministers. [sentence as heard]

[Margalit] Faysal al-Husayni, I thank you very much.

Interviewed on Release

JN2901213689 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, who has come out for internationally supervised elections in the territories, was released today from administrative detention. Our correspondent Ibrahim Shahid met with him. The interview follows:

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] I think the Palestinian issue and the uprising should be addressed from the standpoint of a political rather than a military or security solution. If there are moves along these lines and they seek to promote a political solution, this is good. The question now is what kind of solution is being proposed by these Israeli circles?

[Shahid] How do you assess the contacts that have been made by certain Israeli officials with you within and outside the detention facility?

[Al-Husayni] Do you mean whether there have been contacts between Israeli officials and myself?

[Shahid] If there have been such contacts, what did you talk about?

[Al-Husayni] To begin with, contacts between Israeli officials and figures from the territories are nothing new. The initiative for these meetings consistently came from the Israeli side.

[Shahid] Were you invited for meetings with certain Israeli Government officials upon your release from detention today?

[Al-Husayni] No.

[Shahid] What about newspaper reports about your meeting with coordinator [of activities in the territories] Shmu'el Goren in the detention facility?

[Al-Husayni] I have read about it in the Israeli newspapers.

[Shahid] But you neither confirm nor deny that you met with him?

[Al-Husayni] I have no comment on this matter.

[Shahid] Let me ask you your opinion about U.S.-PLO contacts. How do you view them?

[Al-Husayni] I think they are necessary and vital, if late. Better late than never, though.

[Shahid] What kind of solutions do you envisage in coordination with the Israeli authorities against the backdrop of recent events?

[Al-Husayni] Typically, disagreements, conflicts, and hostilities lead to a political solution. I think war is the violent side of politics. Any military operation, no matter how successful in the field, will turn out to be a failure short of realizing its objective. I think it is high time the focus of attention was directed to pursuing a political solution.

For its part, the PLO has made political strides and extended its hand to the Israeli side and now hopes the latter will move in earnest in the direction of a political settlement.

Obviously, there is a protracted war going on, the Israeli and Palestinian sides being the key protagonists. Accordingly, any solution will have to be worked out by these two parties—something we expect to happen.

[Shahid] Concerning the uprising, there are proposals being made that these incidents be halted....

[Al-Husayni, interrupting] The problem is the Palestinian question and not the incidents in the territories. If we want to pursue a solution, we must address the whole problem rather than its manifestations. The incidents in the territories are mere manifestations and consequences of the Palestinian problem.

The Israeli side must address the other party, represented by the PLO. I believe that should this come to pass and contacts between Israel and the PLO get under way, a new situation will emerge requiring reactions [words indistinct]. [End recording]

Commentary on Release

TA3001095589 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Jan 89 pp 1, 11

[Commentary by 'Uzi Mahanaymi: "Will Al-Husayni Pull the Chestnuts Out of the Fire?"]

[Text] Rabin's plan, the meeting between his subordinate and Faysal al-Husayni, and the latter's release from jail give the impression that the Defense Ministry has recovered from the shock of the intifadah [uprising] and is looking for political ways to replace the plastic bullets.

The Defense Ministry is making Al-Husayni walk a tightrope in the hope that the man could serve Israel as a bridge to overcome the intifadah. Al-Husayni's cautious remarks upon his release from jail, favoring elections in the territories albeit under international supervision, attest to an immense effort on his part to do well both by those who released him from prison and by his masters in Tunis.

Faysal al-Husayni will continue walking the tightrope without falling if the following conditions are met:

—If Israel sees him as a leader deriving his inspiration from the PLO rather than as a substitute for the PLO's leadership.

—If he receives the PLO's backing for his moves.

Anybody in our midst harboring the illusion that Al-Husayni could be used as a substitute for the PLO's leadership would be making a fundamental mistake. The PLO has always been fearful of the so-called "alternative leadership" in the territories that Israel occasionally tried to "manufacture."

If Israel sees Al-Husayni as a representative of the PLO and does not ignore the organization behind him, and if the PLO sees him as an authentic leader rather than a collaborator, there is a chance that Faysal al-Husayni may be able to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for both sides.

Rabin 'Approved' Al-Husayni Meeting With Goren

TA2901123089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] In today's Cabinet session, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin called on the ministers to stop criticizing and lashing out at IDF commanders. All criticism must be addressed to me, Rabin said. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that many ministers seconded Rabin's request.

The issue of Faysal al-Husayni, the Palestinian leader who was released this morning after serving a long term in administrative detention, was also raised in today's session. Asked about the meeting with Al-Husayni held

by Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of activities in the territories, the defense minister replied that he himself, as well as leading Civil Administration officials and IDF officers, confer and talk with all components of the population in the territories in order to clarify our intentions and hear their views.

The defense minister emphasized that he did not initiate the meeting, but that he approved it before it was held. According to Rabin, the most serious thing was that the meeting was publicized.

In reply to a question by Minister David Levi as to whether the meeting had been designed to further his peace plan, Yitzhaq Rabin answered that he would consider any move of the center of activity to the inhabitants of the territories a positive process. It is no coincidence that 'Arafat threatens those who want to bring the uprising to a halt, Rabin stated.

Frayj Backs PLO Position on Elections

TA3001093389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The PLO and some Palestinians in the territories have rejected the idea of elections in the territories without prior Israeli withdrawal. [passage omitted]

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has backed the PLO position. He said: I will oppose any political elections whatsoever until Israeli withdrawal and until the people regain their freedom. Frayj said the PLO could not accept elections because it wants a comprehensive peace settlement for Palestinians all over the world, not just in the West Bank and Gaza. [passage omitted]

Civil Administration Head in Gaza Meets Notables

TA2901120089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jan 89 pp 1,6

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Gaza Strip Civil Administration, last weekend held a secret meeting with all the Gaza Strip notables who are considered moderates. The meeting was attended by 12 persons, including Engineers' Association Chairman 'Aqil Matar, citrus exporter Isma'il 'Ali, attorney Farih Abu Madina, Hebron University Professor Dr Riyad al-'Arah, industrialist Lutfi Rizq, journalist Muhammad Khas, Gaza Maternity Hospital Director Dr Yusuf Mahdi, citrus exporter Hadir Shurab, and others. All those who attended are identified with the PLO's moderate stream.

In what was seen as a preliminary meeting in which issues could be probed before discussions with political elements, the notables demanded that taxes be abolished, the IDF removed from school areas, the customs station at the Erez checkpoint canceled, and the Islamic College reopened. When the notables attempted to raise political subjects, the Civil Administration head replied that, as an army man, he cannot discuss these issues.

Gen Ramot advised the notables of the Civil Administration's plan to write off the debts and fines of the Gaza Strip residents. It has been learned from military sources that according to the new plan residents who owe money to the State of Israel will be able to pay their debts without fines, compounded debt, or interest. This is the first time a plan like this has been proposed; all it requires now is the defense establishment's approval.

According to the Civil Administration's data, some 6,000 Gaza Strip residents have not paid old debts and current taxes to the Civil Administration since the beginning of the Israeli rule in the territories.

Gen Ramot also informed the notables that the Civil Administration intends to reopen the Islamic College, which has been closed since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising]. He asked them to submit a work plan that would enable the resumption of studies. When it was closed down, the Islamic College was attended by 6,000 students.

Minister Weizman Advocates Talks With PLO

JN2801114589 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Minister of State 'Ezer Weizman expressed the conviction that Israel should not wait for the prevalence of tranquility in the territories, but it can take the reins of initiative and immediately start talking with the PLO. Weizman believes that the talks should be held with representatives acceptable to the Palestinians and empowered to join negotiations to find a settlement. Weizman's remarks came in an interview with our correspondent.

Regret Expressed on Spain, France 'Arafat Talks

TA2701162489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said Israel expresses deep regret at the meetings of the French, Spanish, and Greek foreign ministers with Yasir 'Arafat. In his statement, the spokesman said the PLO has not stopped terrorist acts. Meetings with its leaders will not aid peace, but rather will encourage those forces in the organization that advocate the path of violence, he said.

Shamir Prepared To Talk to Palestinians

TA2901184189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says Israel is prepared to talk to the Palestinians and recognizes their legitimate rights. But he told the visiting deputy speaker of the West

German parliament, Anne Marie Renger, that anyone who was genuinely interested in Israel's existence and independence would never support the PLO.

Israel could not accept the existence of a Palestinian state because this would mean Israel's destruction. Nor would the setting-up of such a state solve the Palestinian problem. But it was possible, Shamir said, that once talks between Israel and the Palestinians began, confidence and trust would increase and the chances of finding settlement acceptable to both parties would grow.

Sharon Warns Against Talks With PLO

TA2801114289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has criticized the prime minister for not exhibiting qualities of leadership with regard to the handling of the uprising in the territories and the formulation of political strategies.

According to Sharon, the weakness of the political echelon is bringing Israel closer to the formation of a second Palestinian state. Minister Sharon said that the government has not demanded a complete stop to the uprising, but has instead satisfied itself with lowering the demonstrators' level of activity in the territories. Sharon asserted that conclusions must be drawn on those who failed to quell the uprising.

Reacting to Minister Weizman's proposal to the Inner Cabinet on initiating talks with the PLO, Sharon said that whoever suggests such a policy legitimizes contacts between the international community and 'Arafat.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0805 GMT on 28 January quotes Sharon saying that "as long as 'Arafat is alive and roaming our surrounding vicinity there will never be peace. No Arab leader will be prepared to sit with us for fear of his life, and no Palestinians will be prepared to enter discussions because if they were to do so, as long as 'Arafat is alive, their fate would be sealed."]

Minister Ari'el Sharon was speaking to our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Egypt's Reported Move on Tabah Welcomed

TA2701182589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem says that if Egypt does not intend to extend its sovereignty over Tabah on Sunday [29 January] it is welcome news. The spokesman told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that Israel is interested in continuing the Tabah talks without delay and to make progress in the efforts already made in the first two rounds of talks.

Earlier, a source in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry was reported to have said that Egypt does not intend to declare its sovereignty over the enclave on Sunday, since the international team of arbitrators has already confirmed its sovereignty over the territory.

The source, which asked to remain anonymous, said that the remarks on the matter by Re'uven Merhav, director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, are mistaken. He was referring to Merhav's statement at the conclusion of today's talks that the sides failed to reach an agreement following Egypt's unilateral declaration.

Egypt's Explanations Awaited

TA2801173589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Throughout Saturday, there were contacts between Jerusalem and Cairo to receive clarifications about the steps Egypt plans to take tomorrow on implementing its sovereignty over Tabah.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Jerusalem is waiting for clarifications of the Egyptian position and the decision of the special court set up to rule on the compensation to be paid to the Ra's al-Burqa' victims, which is expected to announce its decision on Sunday.

It appears that there will not be any plenum deliberations in Tabah this week by the full delegations, but a discussion by the working committees on arrangements for access to Tabah by Israelis.

Al-'Arabi on Israeli Presence

TA2901101189 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Jan 89 pp 1,2

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan]

[Excerpt] Nabil al-'Arabi, head of the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks, told DAVAR last weekend that the continued official Israeli presence in the Tabah area is "a gross violation of the peace agreement."

In an interview with DAVAR, Al-'Arabi contended that in Egypt's view, Israel should have evacuated its policemen from Tabah and dismantled the Israeli border checkpoint, and an Egyptian checkpoint should have been erected immediately after the arbitration decision was published and certainly no later than 29 January.

According to him, 29 January is the expiration date of the 60 days allotted for the implementation of the arbitration decision. Authorized Israeli elements reacted by saying that Al-'Arabi's contention has no legal basis, since the Rome agreement signed by the parties on 29 November 1988 stipulates merely that Egypt and Israel are to show "goodwill" in solving the rest of the problems pertaining to Tabah within 2 months. [passage omitted]

Egypt Issues Decrees

TA2901195489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Egypt is prepared to pay approximately $500,000 to the families of the Ra's al-Burqa' victims. This transpires from the ruling of the special tribunal in Cairo. This constitutes almost half the sum requested by Israel and the United States, but it is still a far higher sum than Egypt had originally been prepared to pay.

A team of jurists representing the Foreign Ministry and the victims' relatives is currently reviewing the ruling in depth. Jerusalem maintains, however, that an initial reading of it indicates that great progress has been made as far as the compensation is concerned.

Egypt also issued the tourism decree over the area of the Aviya Sonesta Hotel in Tabah this evening. Our correspondent Natan Gutman reports that an initial investigation shows that this is the moderate version of the injunction which only talks about authorizing the Egyptian Tourism Ministry to conduct negotiations on the purchase of the Aviya Sonesta Hotel. The announcement on this reached Jerusalem via diplomatic channels in Cairo.

Meanwhile, the Egyptians have announced that they are not prepared to permit the Israeli flag to be flown alongside the Egyptian flag at border marker No 91 and that if the Israeli flag is nevertheless hoisted, they will postpone the ceremony scheduled for tomorrow morning.

GDR Religious Official Arrives on Visit

TA2901054089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] East Germany's state secretary for church affairs, Dr Kurt Loeffler, has arrived in Israel for a 6-day visit. This is the first visit ever by an East German minister to Israel.

Dr Loeffler was invited by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. During his stay, he will meet with his Israeli counterpart Zvulun Hammer.

Ministry 'Avoiding' Official

TA2901120989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] East Germany's Religious Affairs Minister Kurt Loeffler this morning laid a wreath at Yad Vashem, the memorial in Jerusalem to the 6 million Jewish victims of the Nazi holocaust.

Loeffler is the first East German Cabinet minister to visit Israel, but officials in Jerusalem caution against predictions of diplomatic relations. Jack Katzenell reports:

Loeffler is here as the guest of Yad Vashem and will be having dinner with the institute's director, Dr Yitzhaq Arad. As a matter of courtesy, Israel's Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer will also be receiving the East German visitor.

But the Foreign Ministry is deliberately avoiding contact with him. This is in sharp contrast to Israeli policy toward the other East-bloc countries with whom Israel is interested in resuming full diplomatic relations as soon as possible.

Hungary and Poland already have interest sections in Israel, and vice versa. Israel and the Soviet Union have exchanged consular missions, and Israel's foreign minister has held meetings at the United Nations with his counterparts from Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia. Only Albania remains isolated by its own choice.

For more than a year, Israel has been receiving hints from East Germany that it is interested in a thaw. Loeffler's visit can be seen in this light, and there have also been some cultural and academic exchanges.

But Israel is not prepared for diplomatic relations unless East Germany accepts historical responsibility—as West Germany has always done—for the Nazi holocaust, and agrees to compensate the surviving victims. Up till now, the East Germans have maintained that West Germany alone carries this responsibility.

Last year, the president of the World Jewish Congress, Edgar Bronfman, visited East Germany for a meeting with its president. Afterwards, Bronfman said the East Germans were willing to pay $100 million in compensation to Jewish victims of the Nazis. Officials in Jerusalem say they are not prepared to comment on Bronfman's statement. They insist on hearing it from the East Germans themselves.

Sharon Leaves for Meetings in France, Brussels

TA2901081089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon this morning left for a tour of Europe where he will discuss Israel's commercial ties with the continent. In France, in an effort to improve Israel's negative trade balance, he will hold discussions with his French counterpart. Later, he will continue to Brussels where he will meet with EEC leaders.

Deqel Outlines Plans for Establishing Settlements

TA3001054689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Mikha'el Deqel, the prime minister's adviser on settlement affairs, has said that the state budget includes an allocation for the establishment of eight new settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. He said

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is proposing that two of the eight settlements—Zoref in Gush 'Ezyon and Rehan He-Bustanay near Umm al-Fahm—be set up.

Kefar Darom in the Gaza Strip will be established and will become a permanent settlement, despite earlier differences over the wisdom of such a move in the heart of a highly populated Arab area.

Deqel also disclosed in his talk with our correspondent Moti Amir that the government will pave an access road to Gush Qatif, which will link the Gaza Strip with the Eshkol Regional Council. All the land requisitioning for the paving of the road has just been completed.

Islamic Movements Can Participate in Elections

TA2801174189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Lists representing the Islamic Movement and the Sons of the Village Movement in the Arab sector will be able to participate in the local elections. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that according to senior Interior Ministry officials the two groups cannot be banned from participating in next month's elections because of a concern that they might appeal to the High Court of Justice.

4 SLA Soldiers Hurt in Attack by 'Terrorists'

TA2901120189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Four South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers were wounded this morning in a gun battle with terrorists in the security zone. Three suffered moderate to serious wounds and were flown by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. The fourth was taken to the hospital in Marj 'Uyun.

Our reporter in the north says the terrorists opened fire on the SLA troops from an area north of the security zone. The SLA forces returned fire.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

5 Wounded by IDF Gunfire

TA2701194089 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Five Palestinian youths sustained slight gunshot wounds in their legs during clashes with IDF forces in Samaria and the Gaza Strip, official army sources reported.

Last night, two youths were wounded in the village of Husan near Bethlehem when they tried to set up a roadblock made of stones. The employment center in the village of Salfit in Samaria was set on fire last night.

Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports that despite the sharp drop in the number of disturbances in the territories this week, the IDF has continued to initiate actions, in particular to detain people suspected of organizing unrest. The IDF last night operated in the village of Tammun in the Janin District.

Curfew Imposed on Tulkarm

TA2801075689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Curfews have been imposed on Tulkarm and on the adjacent refugee camp to prevent disturbances. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

A resident of Tulkarm was injured yesterday in the course of stone-throwing incidents.

Curfew Lifted From Tulkarm

TA2801131489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The curfew on Tulkarm was lifted today at approximately noon. The curfew had been imposed this morning after a resident of the city was injured yesterday in the course of stone-throwing incidents. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

Two Youths Wounded in Rafah

TA2901165889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Two youths, aged 17 and 18, were wounded today in Rafah by IDF fire in the course of stonethrowing incidents. This was reported by the IDF spokesman. Arab sources reported that five persons were injured in these incidents. [passage omitted]

1 Killed, 12 Wounded

TA2801182389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] A 23-year-old youth was killed and two were wounded in the village of Bayt Surik in the Judaea district in a violent clash between an IDF force and local inhabitants. The youth's death was announced by a Bethlehem hospital. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that there were several disturbances in Judaea and Samaria today in which three other people sustained wounds.

Army sources reported that in the Gaza Strip there were three casualties, including a 3-year-old boy. Sources in Gaza reported that there were seven casualties.

The Al-Mughazi and Dayr al-Balah refugee camps in the Gaza Strip are under curfew. The curfew imposed before dawn on Tulkarm was lifted in the afternoon.

Houses of Residents Sealed

TA2901054789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] In the Gaza Strip, security forces have sealed the houses of six residents who attacked locals and hurled stones and firebombs at IDF soldiers. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in Khan Yunus houses of three members of a popular committee have been sealed. The three are suspected of attacking residents they believed to be assisting the authorities, setting a number of cars and a local factory on fire, and throwing stones at an IDF patrol.

In the village of Jabalyah, houses of two committee members who erected roadblocks and hurled firebombs were sealed. In addition, the house of a Gaza Strip resident was sealed because the resident attacked an IDF soldier with a hammer in the Al-Shati' refugee camp.

Events of 27-28 Jan

TA2901112889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Jan 89 p 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Troops shot dead a Palestinian and wounded 14 others in West Bank clashes over the weekend, Palestinians said. The IDF confirmed the death and only five other casualties.

The casualties occurred when soldiers raided several villages to make arrests, clear roadblocks, and nationalist flags and graffiti. [passage omitted]

The fatal incident occurred at Surif, near Hebron. Palestinians said that when troops raided the village Majid Abu Farah, 23, was fatally shot in the chest, and two other villagers were wounded.

In Tulkarm on Friday, 18-year-old Majid Mahmud Hasan was seriously wounded in the chest when troops opened fire. A curfew was clamped on the town for several hours yesterday.

In other incidents Friday, a 21-year-old was reported wounded in Nabulus in what local residents said was a shooting by an IDF sharpshooter. The army had no report of casualties. Palestinians reported a woman wounded a Tammun, near Janin, one person wounded in Janin, and another at Kafr Malik near Ramallah. The IDF reported a raid on Tammun, but no casualties.

In other incidents yesterday, nine people were wounded in the Nabulus, Janin and Bethlehem areas, reports said.

At 'Anabta Friday night, members of so-called "strike forces" attacked four "collaborators," beating them, setting fire to their cars and homes and vandalizing furniture, Palestinians said. The youths later used loudspeakers to demand that the "collaborators" get out of town, according to local reports.

In the Gaza Strip, 14 Palestinians were wounded in sporadic clashes with troops, reports said.

Four residents of Al-Shati' refugee camp were shot in the stomach Friday and Saturday, while a fifth person was slightly wounded, according to Palestinian sources. Two more persons, including a three-year-old, were wounded in Khan Yunus, two in Dayr al-Balah and one in the Zaytun neighbourhood in Gaza.

The Gaza Strip civil administration on Friday closed the main market on Shu'arah Street in Rafah. The street's hundred shops and weekend market stands has been a centre of unrest and stone-throwing for months, said the civil administration spokeswoman.

A leaflet distributed last week in the name of the "striking forces of the unified leadership of the uprising" sharply criticized a recent call by the PLO to establish a popular army there which would coordinate with Fatah's Force-17. [passage omitted]

Firebomb Thrown at IDF Unit

TA2901130589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] This morning a firebomb was hurled at an IDF patrol in the Al-Burayj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. It did not hit anyone and caused no damage. Our correspondent in Gaza 'Ezra Yanuv reports that a curfew was imposed on the camp and searches were conducted.

Suspected Inciters Arrested

TA2901144689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] The security forces have arrested approximately 75 residents of Tulkarm suspected of organizing disturbances. The arrests started on Saturday, and most of those arrested come from the 'Izbat al-Jawad neighborhood, which is situated in the east side of Tulkarm.

Firebomb Thrown at Empty Bus

TA2901151589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] A firebomb was thrown at an empty bus in East Jerusalem's old central bus station. There were no casualties, but the bus was slightly damaged. This is reported by our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum.

Firebombs Thrown at Egged Bus

TA2901174789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Two firebombs were thrown at an Egged bus this evening on the Mount of Olives near the Hebrew University Campus in Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the firebombs did not ignite. Police and Border Police forces are searching the area. [passage omitted]

6 Hurt; Curfews Imposed 29 Jan

TA2901203089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Two Judaea and Samaria youths were injured today when stones were thrown at IDF soldiers. The first is a 20-year-old youth from Qabatiyah, the other from 'Asirah al-Shamaliyah in Samaria.

Four Gaza Strip youths who had thrown rocks at the security services were wounded today. The army imposed a curfew on the Al-Mughazi and Dayr al-Balah refugee camps.

IDF Officer Sentenced

TA3001053289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] An IDF officer has been sentenced to 3 months in prison with 6 months suspended for shooting to death an Arab in the Gaza Strip during an operation. The soldier was an instructor in an officers' course. A military judge for Southern Command said it was forbidden to shoot at demonstrators while the soldiers' lives were not in danger. The officer was convicted of causing a death through carelessness and confessed to charges.

More on 29 Jan Casualties

TA3001092689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Jan 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by Asher Wallfish, Joel Greenberg, Mikhal Sela', and Andy Court]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In Gaza, 13 people were wounded in clashes with troops, according to Palestinian sources. The IDF spokesman reported four injuries. Six houses were sealed off.

Three people were hit in the leg with plastic bullets in the Shabura neighbourhood in Rafah, and one was wounded in Khan Yunus, an IDF spokesman reported. Palestinian sources reported that two more were wounded in Rafah, while a total of seven people were hurt in Khan Yunus, four by rubber bullets and three by plastic bullets. Another woman was hit by a rubber bullet in the village of 'Abasan, said a Palestinian source. [passage omitted]

In clashes with troops, seven persons were reported wounded; one in 'Asirah al-Shamaliyah, near Nabulus, one at Dayr Abu Sa'id near Janin, one in Ramallah, one in Tulkarm, and one in Bethlehem. An eight-year-old boy from the Balatah refugee camp was hospitalized with head injuries caused by rubber bullets and a youth was treated for beating injuries.

Mukhtar Murdered Near Tulkarm

TA3001102389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Salim, the mukhtar of Bayt Lid near Tulkarm, was murdered last night. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the police have opened an investigation.

An improvised explosive charge blew up in Nabulus' Clock Square a short time ago. There were no casualties or damage. Army forces closed off the area and began searches.

Youth Hurt by IDF Gunfire

TA3001113889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] A 17-year-old youth was wounded by IDF gunfire in downtown Nabulus in a stonethrowing incident. Sources in Nabulus told our correspondent that the youth was wounded when a group of youngsters publicly set fire to Israeli-made products near the Cairo-Amman Bank.

Our correspondent points out that local residents and shopowners have recently been under a great deal of pressure not to sell Israeli products.

Foreign Minister Sets Regional Settlement Terms

PM2701182589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jan 89 pp 1,2

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Michael Sheridan on 26 January in Damascus]

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' stated yesterday (Thursday) that Britain will not be able to participate in the Middle East peace process until it resumes diplomatic relations with Syria.

In an hour-long interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the various aspects of Syria's foreign policy, Al-Shar' adopted a hardline position regarding the chances of resuming contacts with Britain.

In reply to the claim that some members of the British Government "were still not reassured about Syria's position on terrorism," Al-Shar' said: "Well, we still have doubts about Mrs Margaret Thatcher's policy toward Syria and the region..., and our suspicions have some foundation."

Al-Shar' then referred to the activities of the Israeli intelligence organ Mosad in Britain. These activities, he said, are even causing anger in some British circles.

He added: "We can live without diplomatic relations with Britain, but I do not believe that Britain will be able to play a major part in the region's peace process in isolation from Syria." He added that, although Britain is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Syria would never agree to British participation in a peace conference on the Middle East unless there were full diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The minister said that Syria condemns terrorism. He recalled Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's strong condemnation of the Pan-Am airliner bombing over Scotland.

Minister al-Shar' then broached the subject of the hostages kidnapped in Lebanon and his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and leaders of Lebanon's Hizballah Party. He said: "Syria is doing what it can to secure the release of the foreign hostages in Lebanon."

He added that the Lebanese militia fully realize that, as long as there is a real Syrian presence in Lebanon, we will never tolerate or accept the taking of any hostage, but I say frankly that the Lebanese situation is a complex one and it is not easy to free those who have been kidnapped.

Al-Shar' then spoke about Syrian-Iranian relations, describing them as strong, and expressed confidence that the two states will be able to settle the differences between their allies in Lebanon. He added that "the Iranians understand the Syrian role in Lebanon and they cannot fail to appreciate that role," ...giving the impression that Syria expects to arrive at a formula of understanding with Iran in the next round of talks. It should be recalled that the cease-fire between the (pro-Syria) Amal Movement and the (pro-Iran) Hizballah in Lebanon has collapsed.

The Syrian minister then discussed the Middle East peace process. He said that Syria has refrained from openly attacking Yasir 'Arafat's steps toward moderation. He reaffirmed Syria's commitment to "a just and lasting settlement" based on a Palestinian state under the auspices of an international conference.

He said that Syria is aware of the Soviet Union's new policy on the Middle East under Mikhail Gorbachev, adding that Syria is not worried about the small steps which that policy is taking toward Israel. He said that the foundations of Syrian-Soviet relations are firm and do not change.

On relations with Egypt, Al-Shar' supplied the clearest proof of improvement when he said that Syria "deliberately agreed" to allow the participation of an Egyptian delegation in the Arab agriculture ministers' conference in Damascus. He added that he saw "positive developments" in Egyptian policy and believed that President Mubarak abrogated a part of the Camp David agreements by supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Although some Syrian officials say that Damascus may not object to a majority vote on Egypt's return to the Arab League, Al-Shar' did not go that far, but he did say that Syria wants a "stronger" Egyptian presence before restoring relations with it.

Reportage on Talks on Amal-Hizballah Clash

Iran's Velayati Arrives

JN2801181689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the delegation accompanying him returned to Damascus this afternoon. His Syrian counterpart, Faruq al-Shar', and ranking Syrian Foreign Ministry officials were present at the airport to welcome him.

Velayati told the press: I have come to Damascus to pursue the reconciliation between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. Asked about the release of the British hostages, Velayati said: I hope that all hostages will be released.

Minister al-Shar' told the press: We are now focusing on a reconciliation between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. We persistenly seek to bring about such a reconciliation to stop the fighting. On when the hostages will be released, Al-Shar' said: There is nothing in this respect now.

Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan also arrived in Damascus. He met with Amal Movement leader lawyer Nabih Birri. Shaykh Muhammad Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Council, also arrived in Damascus and joined the meeting between Nabih Birri and Shaykh Qabalan.

A meeting was held at the Iranian Embassy between Hizballah spiritual leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and the Hizballah delegation made up of Shaykh Ibrahim al-Amin, 'Abbas Musawi, Husayn al-Musawi, and Al-Haj Husayn Khalil.

The first session of these talks ended last Wednesday and produced a preliminary agreement on a cease-fire and the suspension of media campaigns between the two sides.

Al-Shar' and Velayati held a closed meeting this evening before they were joined by the Amal Movement delegation comprising Minister Birri, Muhammad Baydun, Haytham Jum'ah, Ahmad Harb, and Mahmud Abu Hamdan, official in charge of security.

Lebanese Leaders Arrive

NC2801184189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din and Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan have arrived in the Syrian capital, where they met with Amal Movement leader Birri. Afterward, Mufti Qabalan met with the Hizballah delegation.

Meanwhile, Grand Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan stressed the need to deal with the security issues between the Amal Movement and Hizballah to prepare for a comprehensive political settlement. He emphasized that the security of the southern suburb should be part of Beirut's security.

Interviewed by the Voice of the Homeland Radio, Qabalan said his initiative aims to deal with the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah through a cease-fire, the return of the displaced people, the release of the detainees, and the establishment of a joint operations room for the resistance which is fighting the Israeli occupation.

He stated that the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council should be the highest authority for the Shi'ite sect.

Velayati Begins Talks

JN2801200689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received his Iranian counterpart, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, this evening. Attending were Dia'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; General Ghazi Kan'an; and Munir Musa Basha, Asia desk chief. For Iran, the meeting was also attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Sheykh-ol-Eslam and Tehran's ambassador in Damascus. They discussed how best to bring about total reconciliation between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

Dr Velayati arrived in Damascus earlier in the evening. On hand at the airport to greet him were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the assistant foreign minister, the Foreign Ministry Asia desk and protocol chiefs, and Iran's ambassador and embassy staff.

Velayati Urges Accord

LD2901070789 Tehran IRNA in English 0605 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 29, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here on a mediation mission to end bloody clashes between the rival Amal and Hizballah forces met with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' here Saturday night.

During the meeting also attended by Foreign Ministry Deputy for Arab-African Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh-ol-eslam, both sides discussed ways of bringing Amal-Hizballah views closer in order to sign a lasting peace agreement.

Velayati, who was also here earlier last week on a similar mission, held separate talks with Amal and Hizballah leaders late Saturaday night.

In lengthy talks with members of the leadership council of Hizballah which lasted till mid-night, Velayati stressed the need for reaching a comprehensive agreement to end the fighting.

Meanwhile Syrian foreign minister met separately with Amal and Hizballah leaders in a bid to become further aquainted with their views towards a comprehensive peace.

Al-Shar''s meeting with Amal leaders was also attended by Vice-Speaker of Supreme Assembly of the Lebanese Shi'te Muslims Shaykh Mahdi Shams al-Din and Lebanese Shi'te Alim Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan.

Velayati was here early last week to help to bring an end to the bloodshed between Amal and Hizballah forces in which at least 150 have been killed and many others have been wounded.

Velayati's earlier talks with Al-Shar' and Amal and Hizballah leaders resulted in a short-lived cease-fire between Amal and Hizballah. The cease-fire which was declared Thursday morning lasted only a few hours and fighting again erupted between members of the two groups.

Velayati, Al-Shar' Review Talks

JN2901140089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met this morning at the Foreign Ministry in a bilateral meeting in the presence of the Syrian and Iranian delegations. During this meeting, they reviewed the results of the discussions and contacts which took place yesterday.

Al-Shar' Sees Amal's Birri

NC29 1151889 Paris AFP in English 1455 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Damascus, Jan 29 (AFP)—The foreign ministers of Syria and Iran, Faruq al-Shar' and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, met here Sunday for the second time in less than 24 hours to seek a settlement to Lebanon's inter-Shi'ite strife.

After the three-hour meeting, informed sources said, Mr. Velayati met with a delegation of the Iranian-backed Hizballah movement led by Shaykh Ibrahim al-Amin.

Mr. al-Shar' was meanwhile in conference with Nabih Birri, the head of Amal, Hizballah's staunchest rival in Lebanon.

The belligerents, both from the Moslem Shi'ite community, have been fighting intermittently since last April for the control of southern Lebanon and Beirut's southern suburbs.

Correspondents here reported that Amal and Hizballah representatives failed to hold face-to-face talks.

But Mr. Birri told reporters an agreement with Hizballah could emerge Sunday, adding that he had presented the Syrian officials with "positive suggestions" to end the conflict. [passage omitted]

'Comprehensive Solution' Found

LD2901163689 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 29, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Syrian opposite number Faruq al-Shar' reached a comprehensive solution to end Lebanon's Amal-Hizballah fratricide during their second round of talks in Damascus today.

Velayati who arrived here yes
members of Hizballah leader
last night while Al-Shar' disc

But Amal leader Nabih Birri,
reiterated his earlier demand
promise only when the allege
manders are handed over.

Three Amal commanders Da
Faqih, and Hasan Sabiti were
11 last year. Amal has accused
while the latter denies the cha

Birri, who holds a minister's
Salim al-Huss' cabinet is to l
participate in an Arab con
solving Lebanon's other prob
crisis, stemming from the M
Awn's forming of a separate
areas.

Velayati is scheduled to fly b
Damascus visit, the second i

Birri Makes 'Posi

NC2901171189 Beirut Voice

in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jan

[Text] Contacts and consul
Damascus in an attempt to
between the Amal Moveme
reach a final agreement over t
and Tehran sponsorship.

A 3-hour meeting was held at
try today between Syrian F
Shar' and his Iranian counte
yati. Velayati later left for the
met with a Hizballah delegati

The Syrian minister receive
Minister Nabih Birri and the
the second time. Birri affirm
positive proposals for the sak
He added that it is likely
reached today.

'Comprehensive A

JN3001072789 Damascus Do

0515 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] As a result of the joint
and the Islamic Republic of
and Hizballah have reached
The accord is expected to be
prehensive accord was reac
series of discussions held b
al-Shar' and Iranian Foreig
Velayati in separate meetings

erday had conferred with
hip council for five hours
ursed with Amal leaders.

in a talk with IRNA today,
that his militia will com-
murderers of Amal com-

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killed in Lebanon on Sept.
Hizballah of the murders,
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movement's delegation for
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Accord' Reached

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Iran, the Amal Movement
a comprehensive accord.

announced today. A com-
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y Foreign Minister Faruq
n Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar
s with the Amal delegation

led by Nabih Birri and the Hizballah delegation. The meetings were attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'allah al-Fattal, Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, and the chief of the Asian Desk at the Foreign Ministry.

Velayati, Hizballah Official Speak

JN3001072589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 050 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Exerpts] [Passage omitted] Following the meeting that was held between the Syrian and Iranian sides on one hand and the Hizballah delegation on the other, Dr Velayati told the press: Thank God, we have reached an agreement, and Amal and Hizballah have finally reached an agreement. We hope the two parties will resume cooperation in Lebanon in future, and they will sign the agreement today.

He added: The contents of the agreement will be made public after it has been signed. The most important point in this agreement is that on a cease-fire. I will remain in Damascus until the two sides sign the agreement.

Hizballah official Shaykh Ibrahim al-Amin said: Thank God, we can now say that the talks and efforts of the brothers in Syria and Iran have produced positive results. We can also say that we have reached a final agreement whose contents will be made public today.

When Al-Amin was asked about the hostages, he replied: This issue has nothing to do with us, or with the agreement.

Monte Carlo Reports Agreement

JN3001130389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an has announced that those accused of the assassination of Amal Movement leaders Dawud Dawud, Mahmud al-Faqih, and Hasan Sabiti have been handed over and are now with the Syrian forces in Lebanon. Kan'an added: The person accused of killing Shaykh 'Ali Kurayyim has also been handed over to the Syrian forces.

The fourth round of bilateral talks between Ministers Faruq al-Shar' and Velayati was held this morning. The Hizballah delegation joined the meeting later.

A short while ago, the Amal Movement delegation under lawyer Nabih Birri entered the Syrian Foreign Ministry's building. Nabih Birri told the press: We have come to join the meeting, depending on God.

Some 2 hours ago, Dr Velayati made the following statement: We can now say that the four-way meeting of Amal, Syria, Hizballah, and Iran will take place. We hope that Amal and Hizballah will sign the agreement. Of course, Syria and Iran will guarantee its implementation.

Asked if the Amal-Hizballah agreement will pave the way for the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon, Dr Velayati said: I hope that all the foreign hostages, irrespective of their nationalities, will be released very soon on the basis of humanitarian considerations.

Everybody is waiting for the announcement of the signing of the agreement and its provisions.

Commentary Calls Rabin Plan 'Insidious Curtain'

JN2201165089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The other day, Zionist War Minister Yitzhaq Rabin came up with a plan of his own calling for what he termed a peaceful settlement with the Palestinians. For all the language in which the plan was couched, giving it the luster of peace, and the olive branch waved by Rabin, in reality it is nothing more than an insidious curtain concealing a gun that has consistently sought to hit the Palestinians and Arabs and subdue them.

Rabin—who now spearheads a new brutal drive to put down the uprising with iron and fire and a package of measures involving more home demolitions, killings, and other forms of terror—hopes to reap the fruit of his new campaign through intimidation and terror on the one hand and holding out what he called his peace initiative on the other.

The Israeli war minister thinks that his new military effort, representing a new, advanced step along the road of the Zionist genocidal war against the Palestinian people, will produce a submission of the heroic uprising to his proposal, which he said comprises four successive stages: Bringing calm back to the West Bank and Gaza Strip; calling free and fair elections for a Palestinian leadership to negotiate with Israel; setting up self-rule; and finally negotiating a permanent solution to the Palestinian problem.

Strikingly, the first item on Rabin's plan concerns ending the uprising. Indeed, this is the only item that interests Israel, for the uprising is its major preoccupation now. Once it has managed to crush it, Israel will no longer be interested in anything else in the Paelstinian arena. Hence,it becomes clear that the other items, which are meaningless and irrelevant and seek to liquidate the Palestinian cause, are merely smokescreens to obfuscate

matters both in the Palestinian camp and internationally. This is because Israel wants to create the illusion that it is seeking peace and offering the Palestinians peace initiatives. Except that these Zionist strategems no longer deceive anyone.

Indeed, they amount to a new, powerful incentive for keeping up the momentum of and escalating the uprising. This would mean that the Israeli arm is beginning to weaken and the valiant uprising to force retreat on the Israelis. We are all too aware that Rabin's initiative is stillborn and an imminent initiative bearing the signature of the entire Shamir government will meet with the same fate since it is inspired by the same mentality and similarly seeks to crush the uprising ahead of liquidating the Palestinian cause. Still, we realize that the battle is severe and harsh.

Israel is a rabid enemy that cares for nothing beyond its security and hegemony over others. Therefore, the Palestinian right to an independent state can only be attained through escalating and sustaining the uprising as well as hurting Israel, robbing it of the ability to destroy our will, and draining it of its savagery with heightened steadfastness and sacrifice.

Local Security for U.S. Embassy Goes on Stike

NC2701180989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Several people telephoned our radio today saying that Lebanese nationals employed by the U.S. Embassy in Beirut have gone on strike to demand higher salaries and better medical care. We have tried to get in touch with the embassy to clarify the matter but were unable to speak to any officials.

400 Demonstrate Outside Embassy

NC2801062289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Approximately 400 Lebanese working for the U.S. Embassy security department in Beirut demonstrated outside the embassy headquarters in 'Awkar for 5 hours yesterday in protest against low wages. The demonstrators cut the road leading to the embassy by means of two armored cars belonging to the embassy. They also gathered at the entrances to the embassy building.

A spokesman for the demonstrators stated that a committee has been formed and that this committee has presented demands to U.S. Ambassador John McMcarthy, who promised to consider them.

Reportage on Hostage Mission of Irish Ambassador

Makes Stopover in Cyprus

NC2701125789 Paris AFP in English 1237 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Larnaca, Cyprus, Jan 27 (AFP)—Ireland's ambassador in the Middle East, Patrick McCabe, arrived here Friday from Baghdad for a stopover before flying out to Beirut amid rumors that an Irish hostage held there was to be freed after more than 1,000 days in captivity.

"I shall endeavor to investigate rumors circulating in Beirut about the possible release of Brian Keenan and some other hostages," he told reporters following his arrival aboard an Iraqi Airways flight.

Mr. McCabe, who is also accredited to Lebanon, had said Thursday he would take the first plane to Beirut, where Mr. Keenan, a 38-year-old university lecturer was kidnapped on April 11, 1986.

No group has claimed responsibility for Mr. Keenan's abduction near the campus of the American University in mainly Moslem West Beirut.

The Irish Government has "frequently been in contact with the British Government, particularly now," Mr. McCabe said of ongoing talks on Western hostages held in Lebanon.

This is Mr. McCabe's sixth visit to Beirut, he said, adding that although it had been scheduled, he had "brought it forward."

He declined to say how long he would stay in Beirut, adding only that he was to meet "people who might be helpful with regard to Brian Keenan and other western hostages."

He also would not say whom he would meet or whether any release might occur through Larnaca or Damascus, if his mission succeeds.

Mr. Keenan's fate was also at the center of talks late Wednesday in Damascus between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Ireland's new ambassador to Syria, Declan Connolly.

Mr. Connolly, who is based in Saudi Arabia, went to the Syrian capital to "deal with this affair," Mr. McCabe added.

Security sources in Beirut said Mr. Connolly and Mr. Al-Shar' discussed the means Syria would use to convey Mr. Keenan to safety if he were released.

"Since Brian Keenan was kidnapped, my government has been constantly in touch with a number of governments, including, of course, the Syrian Government," Mr. McCabe said.

Syrian troops control two-thirds of Lebanese territory, with thousands deployed in West Beirut and the nearby southern suburbs where foreign hostages are believed to be held by pro-Iranian militants.

According to Beirut sources, Mr. Keenan had both British and Irish nationalities, which they said was an "advantage" that could help speed his release, without explaining how.

Two other Britons held in Lebanon are Church of England special envoy Terry Waite and television cameraman John McCarthy.

In all, 21 foreigners, including nine Americans, are currently in captivity in Lebanon.

Discusses Hostages

NC2801161389 Paris AFP in English 1603 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Jan 28 (AFP)—Ireland's ambassador for Iraq and Lebanon arrived here on Saturday to invstigate rumours concerning a possible release of Brian Keenan and John McCarthy, Irish and British hostages respectively, held in Lebanon for more than 1,000 days.

"I don't kn[illegible]t know at the moment of any reasons which make me particu[illegible]ticularly hopeful," said Baghdad-based Patrick McCabe o[illegible]e on his arrival from Cyprus at Beirut International Airp[illegible]Airport in Syrian-controlled West Beirut.

He said he[illegible] he would "investigate the rumours" of the two hostages' [illegible]s' possible release and "see diplomats and other persons."[illegible]."

"I don't th[illegible]t think it's prudent or wise to specify in detail," he said.

Mr Keena[illegible]nan, a 38-year-old university lecturer, was kidnapped on[illegible] on April 11, 1986 near the West Beirut campus of the Am[illegible]American University of Beirut.

British tel[illegible] television cameraman John McCarthy, 34, was seized six[illegible] six days later on the road leading to the airport. Both kidn[illegible]dnappings have gone unclaimed.

Mr McCab[illegible]Cabe said that Dublin had had "high level regular contacts w[illegible]s with a number of governments including Iran and Syria[illegible]ria, who might be able to be of assistance in securing K[illegible]g Keenan's release."

(Iranian F[illegible]n Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said on Saturday [illegible]y in Damascus that he hoped for the release of Western h[illegible]n hostages from Lebanon. He was replying to a reporter's[illegible]r's question on rumours surrounding the early release of[illegible] of Mr Keenan and Mr McCarthy.)

But he str[illegible]ressed that "no ramsom" had been demanded by the me[illegible]men's captors. [passage omitted]

Says Ready 'To Talk to Anyone'

NC28012[illegible]1203789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GM[illegible]MT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Iri[illegible]rish ambassador to Lebanon Patrick McCabe has expressed[illegible]ed readiness to talk to anyone who has information that[illegible]t could hasten the release of Irish hostage Brian Keenan.[illegible].

The Irish[illegible]sh diplomat, who resides in Baghdad, arrived in Beirut to[illegible] today at the instructions of his government to look into[illegible]o reports about the imminent release of Keenan.

Confers With Amal Official

NC29011[illegible]1162089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic[illegible]ic 1530 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Th[illegible]The general situation in the South was the subject of talks[illegible] during a meeting today between Dr Hasan Yusuf, A[illegible] Amal Movement official in charge of foreign relations[illegible]s, and Patrick McCabe, Irish ambassador to Lebanon[illegible]n, who resides in Iraq.

The Irish[illegible]sh ambassador conveyed his government's position of s[illegible] support for the people of southern Lebanon and their res[illegible]sistance, and stressed that the Irish Government will continue to work through the UN emergency forces to help facilitate the implementation of UN resolutions concerning the South. He also emphasized the positive interaction between the Irish Government and the people of the South.

The talks also dealt with the issue of Irish hostage Brian Keenan. Dr Yusuf reaffirmed that the Amal Movement denounces the kidnapping of innocent people and stressed that the movement will continue to exert efforts to solve this issue [words indistinct].

Iranian Embassy Contacts Hizballah on Hostages

NC2801124689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has received reports disclosing that officials of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut have begun contacts with Hizballah leaders connected with the release of some foreign hostages. The reports add that a great part of Velayati's talks in Damascus had been devoted to the hostage issue.

Velayati Says Hizballah Holds Waite, Others

NC3001061889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati asserted in a statement to the British newspaper THE OBSERVER that Hizballah is the party holding Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, British journalist John McCarthy, and Irish citizen Brian Keenan. Velayati said that Iran is continuing its efforts to bring about the release of British hostages detained in Lebanon.

Two Expelled From 'Security Belt' in South

NC2701181789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] The committee of Al-'Urqub inhabitants has announced that two young men detained in the security belt on Wednesday were expelled outside the belt today. This is the second incident involving the expulsion of security belt inhabitants in the past 48 hours and the third such incident in the last 3 weeks. Thirty-eight of the inhabitants of Shab'a were expelled last Tuesday.

Complaint Made to UN Council

NC2801065689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Lebanon lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council yesterday protesting Israel's expulsion of Lebanese citizens. Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent delegate at the Security Council, condemned the Israeli practices in the south and reserved the right to call upon the Security Council to convene. [passage omitted]

'Awn Cabinet Denounces Expulsion

NC2701132089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] The meeting of the Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of General Michel 'Awn ended at 1300 today, and Director General of the Presidency Judge Joseph Juraysati read the following statement:

The Council of Ministers reviewed the Lebanon file pertaining to the meetings of the Arab Good Offices Committee, scheduled to begin next week at the Arab League Headquarters in Tunis. The council then discussed the general situation in the country and denounced Israel's expulsion of some residents of the border strip from their villages and houses, contrary to the simplest international conventions and customs which safeguard human rights in such cases. The council also studied topics on its agenda and adopted decisions regarding them.

General 'Awn Leaves for Talks in Tunisia

NC2801181689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and an accompanying delegation left Beirut on his way to Tunisia via Cyprus this afternoon. The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY cites well-informed sources as saying that 'Awn will travel directly to Tunisia and return to Lebanon without visiting any other country, although he has several invitations to visit European nations.

'Awn has underlined the need to restore the unity of the land and the people prior to considering reforms or any other demands. He told the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN that any step taken while the occupation continues to cast its shadow over the nation will not be in the interests of the Lebanese.

'Awn said that he has faith in the Arab initiative and that it represents a serious desire to help Lebanon emerge from its troubles.

Fadlallah Calls for End to Sedition 'At Any Cost'

NC2801072389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] In his Friday sermon yesterday, Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah called for closing the bloody sedition file at any cost, saying that this stage is an extremely difficult one.

He announced that more than one party in the region wants to exploit the sedition, and for this reason the combatants must honor the cease-fire and all parties must halt their media campaigns. On the current talks in Damascus dealing with the Shi'ite crisis, Ayatollah Fadlallah said that there are considerable chances of attaining positive results.

Hizballah Official on Recognizing Amal Authority

NC2701193189 Paris AFP in English 1924 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Mashghara, Lebanon, Jan 27 (AFP)—The Hizballah movement will recognise the authority of the Syrian-backed Amal militia in southern Lebanon if it agrees to let the Iranian-backed militants operate from the south against Israel, a Hizballah official said Friday.

Shaykh Hatim Abu Diya' also praised Iran and Syria for their efforts in seeking a settlement to the bitter conflict opposing Amal, a secular group, and the Muslim fundamentalist Hizballah, in southern Lebanon and in Beirut's southern suburbs.

The Muslim Shi'ite rivals have engaged in bloody fighting for the control of both areas, leaving several hundred dead.

Militiamen from both groups were still at a guarded stand-off Friday, two days after Hizballah, or Party of God, and Amal agreed in Damascus to a "preliminary cease-fire" following mediation by Syria and Iran.

"The security of southern Lebanon can be monitored by Amal. But the road must remain open for the resistance against the enemy (Israel)," said Shaykh Abu Diya'

Amal, which considers southern Lebanon its stronghold, routed Hizballah from most of its positions there during pitched battles last April.

Championing a "sacred struggle to liberate Jerusalem", Hizballah has repeatedly demanded a political settlement with Amal that would contribute to its return to southern Lebanon to launch attacks against Israel.

Amal-Hizballah Clashes Reported in Beirut Suburb

NC2801065289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Some 48 hours before the Arab committee is scheduled to meet in Tunis, the security situation flared up in Beirut's southern suburb after a long period of calm.

According to reports we received this morning, machinegun fire was exchanged in the Al-Hajjaj area of the suburb this morning. This developed into an exchange of rocket and medium-caliber artillery fire between 0545 and 0720. The Syrians intervened to halt the clashes.

An extremely guarded calm interrupted by sniper fire is now prevailing in the area.

Hizballah has accused the Amal Movement of trying to launch a new offensive on its position in Al-Hajjaj this morning.

Car Explodes Near Syrian Border; 50 Casualties

NC2801111689 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1106 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] It has been reported that a boody-trapped car exploded on the Al-Marj Road in the vicinity of the Al-Masna' area [near the Syrian-Lebanese border] at 1100 today. According to preliminary reports, the blast has caused 50 casualties, either dead or injured. The charge with which the car had been rigged has been estimated at 100 kg of explosives.

Syrians Surround Site

NC2801115889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1137 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] While attention is being directed at Tunis, awaiting the results of the meetings of the Arab seven-member committee on the Lebanese issue, the criminal bombing drama appeared on the stage again today. A booby-trapped car exploded on the Al-Masna'-Al-Marj Road in Al-Biqa' at 1045 this morning.

The charge the car had been rigged with has been estimated at 50 kg of TNT, and the NNA correspondent in Al-Biqa' has reported that the blast caused 50 casualties, either dead or injured. The Arab Syrian forces have established a security zone around the site of the explosion.

RFL on Beirut Blast, Amal-Hizballah Clashes

NC2801172889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] An explosion took place in Qasqas in West Beirut shortly after 1800. Preliminary reports say that two people were wounded in the blast.

Earlier, 50 people were either killed or wounded in the explosion of a booby-trapped car in Al-Biqa' at midday. The explosion was close to a checkpoint manned by the Syrian occupation forces on Al-Masna' Road in Al-Biqa'. According to one report, one Syrian soldier was killed and four others were injured in the explosion.

Meanwhile, clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets are continuing in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp between gunmen from Fatah and others from the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] group. Four people were injured in these clashes this morning.

In another development Amal and Hizballah are exchanging machinegun fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah in the south. Tension is reportedly high in Al-Hajjaj in the southern suburb of Beirut, following clashes between the two rival Shi'ite groups this morning.

Beirut Radio on Amal Attack in Al-Shumariyah

NC2501093589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] A group from the Lebanese resistance battalions, Amal, attacked a position manned by the enemy and his agents in Al-Shumariyah at midnight last night using machineguns and rockets. The group destroyed a 12.7-mm machinegun emplacement and inflicted several casualties among the enemy and his agents.

Immediately afterward, the enemy searched the area and pounded the town of Frun and the al-Litani River area with rockets and artillery.

On Bra'shit Operation

NC2601202889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Resistance Battalions, Amal, on 26 January]

[Text] The Martyr Nabih Hijazi group attacked the Bra'shit position with machineguns and rockets at 2000 today. A 15-minute clash ensued between the attackers and the guards manning the position. Our fighters managed to destroy two 12.7-mm machinegun emplacements and several fortifications. A number of enemy troops were either killed or wounded. Shortly afterward, enemy forces pounded Bra'shit and Shaqra and raked the environs with machineguns.

Amal Groups Attack Israeli, SLA Positions

NC2801075289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] At 2000 on 26 January, an Amal group launched a machinegun and rocket attack against a position in Bra'shit that is manned by the enemy forces and his agents. The group destroyed a machinegun emplacement and some fortifications and bunkers inside the position. The occupation forces retaliated by shelling the towns of Bra'shit and Shuqayr.

At 2300 on the same night, another group attacked the Hula position using machineguns and rockets. The attack lasted 15 minutes and the group hit the watch tower and killed or wounded six members at the position.

Resistance Reportedly Kills 4 Israeli Soldiers

NC2901103489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Amal has announced that one of its groups of the Martyr Nidal al-'Amili Unit of the Karbala' Company detonated three explosive devices this morning when a

mechanized patrol of the Israeli enemy consisting of an M-113 armored personnel carrier and four infantrymen was passing on the Al-Thughrah-Al-Suwayda' road. The carrier was hit and burned, and the flames could be seen from Al-Nabatiyah. The resistance men attacked the four infantrymen and immediately killed them.

As a result, the Israeli occupation forces and their agents shelled Al-Nabatiyah and Kafr Rumman with tank and mortar shells, causing much damage to property. There have been no reports of any casualties, however. Israeli warplanes are now circling the area, conducting mock air raids and dropping thermal balloons.

Israeli Jets Conduct Mock Raids Over Sidon, Camps

NC2901142389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids over Sidon and the nearby camps between 1300 and 1400 today. The Israeli fighters drew antiaircraft fire.

Flights Over Sidon

NC3001081189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] It was reported in the south just now that enemy warplanes are flying over the city of Sidon and its camps and that they are being confronted with antiaircraft fire.

Foreign Minister Sets Regional Settlement Terms

PM2701182589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jan 89 pp 1,2

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Michael Sheridan on 26 January in Damascus]

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' stated yesterday (Thursday) that Britain will not be able to participate in the Middle East peace process until it resumes diplomatic relations with Syria.

In an hour-long interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the various aspects of Syria's foreign policy, Al-Shar' adopted a hardline position regarding the chances of resuming contacts with Britain.

In reply to the claim that some members of the British Government "were still not reassured about Syria's position on terrorism," Al-Shar' said: "Well, we still have doubts about Mrs Margaret Thatcher's policy toward Syria and the region..., and our suspicions have some foundation."

Al-Shar' then referred to the activities of the Israeli intelligence organ Mosad in Britain. These activities, he said, are even causing anger in some British circles.

He added: "We can live without diplomatic relations with Britain, but I do not believe that Britain will be able to play a major part in the region's peace process in isolation from Syria." He added that, although Britain is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Syria would never agree to British participation in a peace conference on the Middle East unless there were full diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The minister said that Syria condemns terrorism. He recalled Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's strong condemnation of the Pan-Am airliner bombing over Scotland.

Minister al-Shar' then broached the subject of the hostages kidnapped in Lebanon and his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and leaders of Lebanon's Hizballah Party. He said: "Syria is doing what it can to secure the release of the foreign hostages in Lebanon."

He added that the Lebanese militia fully realize that, as long as there is a real Syrian presence in Lebanon, we will never tolerate or accept the taking of any hostage, but I say frankly that the Lebanese situation is a complex one and it is not easy to free those who have been kidnapped.

Al-Shar' then spoke about Syrian-Iranian relations, describing them as strong, and expressed confidence that the two states will be able to settle the differences between their allies in Lebanon. He added that "the Iranians understand the Syrian role in Lebanon and they cannot fail to appreciate that role," ...giving the impression that Syria expects to arrive at a formula of understanding with Iran in the next round of talks. It should be recalled that the cease-fire between the (pro-Syria) Amal Movement and the (pro-Iran) Hizballah in Lebanon has collapsed.

The Syrian minister then discussed the Middle East peace process. He said that Syria has refrained from openly attacking Yasir 'Arafat's steps toward moderation. He reaffirmed Syria's commitment to "a just and lasting settlement" based on a Palestinian state under the auspices of an international conference.

He said that Syria is aware of the Soviet Union's new policy on the Middle East under Mikhail Gorbachev, adding that Syria is not worried about the small steps which that policy is taking toward Israel. He said that the foundations of Syrian-Soviet relations are firm and do not change.

On relations with Egypt, Al-Shar' supplied the clearest proof of improvement when he said that Syria "deliberately agreed" to allow the participation of an Egyptian delegation in the Arab agriculture ministers' conference in Damascus. He added that he saw "positive developments" in Egyptian policy and believed that President Mubarak abrogated a part of the Camp David agreements by supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Although some Syrian officials say that Damascus may not object to a majority vote on Egypt's return to the Arab League, Al-Shar' did not go that far, but he did say that Syria wants a "stronger" Egyptian presence before restoring relations with it.

Reportage on Talks on Amal-Hizballah Clash

Iran's Velayati Arrives

JN2801181689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the delegation accompanying him returned to Damascus this afternoon. His Syrian counterpart, Faruq al-Shar', and ranking Syrian Foreign Ministry officials were present at the airport to welcome him.

Velayati told the press: I have come to Damascus to pursue the reconciliation between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. Asked about the release of the British hostages, Velayati said: I hope that all hostages will be released.

Minister al-Shar' told the press: We are now focusing on a reconciliation between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. We persistenly seek to bring about such a reconciliation to stop the fighting. On when the hostages will be released, Al-Shar' said: There is nothing in this respect now.

Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan also arrived in Damascus. He met with Amal Movement leader lawyer Nabih Birri. Shaykh Muhammad Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Council, also arrived in Damascus and joined the meeting between Nabih Birri and Shaykh Qabalan.

A meeting was held at the Iranian Embassy between Hizballah spiritual leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and the Hizballah delegation made up of Shaykh Ibrahim al-Amin, 'Abbas Musawi, Husayn al-Musawi, and Al-Haj Husayn Khalil.

The first session of these talks ended last Wednesday and produced a preliminary agreement on a cease-fire and the suspension of media campaigns between the two sides.

Al-Shar' and Velayati held a closed meeting this evening before they were joined by the Amal Movement delegation comprising Minister Birri, Muhammad Baydun, Haytham Jum'ah, Ahmad Harb, and Mahmud Abu Hamdan, official in charge of security.

Lebanese Leaders Arrive

NC2801184189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din and Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan have arrived in the Syrian capital, where they met with Amal Movement leader Birri. Afterward, Mufti Qabalan met with the Hizballah delegation.

Meanwhile, Grand Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan stressed the need to deal with the security issues between the Amal Movement and Hizballah to prepare for a comprehensive political settlement. He emphasized that the security of the southern suburb should be part of Beirut's security.

Interviewed by the Voice of the Homeland Radio, Qabalan said his initiative aims to deal with the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah through a cease-fire, the return of the displaced people, the release of the detainees, and the establishment of a joint operations room for the resistance which is fighting the Israeli occupation.

He stated that the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council should be the highest authority for the Shi'ite sect.

Velayati Begins Talks

JN2801200689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received his Iranian counterpart, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, this evening. Attending were Dia'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; General Ghazi Kan'an; and Munir Musa Basha, Asia desk chief. For Iran, the meeting was also attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Sheykh-ol-Eslam and Tehran's ambassador in Damascus. They discussed how best to bring about total reconciliation between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

Dr Velayati arrived in Damascus earlier in the evening. On hand at the airport to greet him were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the assistant foreign minister, the Foreign Ministry Asia desk and protocol chiefs, and Iran's ambassador and embassy staff.

Velayati Urges Accord

LD2901070789 Tehran IRNA in English 0605 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 29, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here on a mediation mission to end bloody clashes between the rival Amal and Hizballah forces met with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' here Saturday night.

During the meeting also attended by Foreign Ministry Deputy for Arab-African Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh-ol-eslam, both sides discussed ways of bringing Amal-Hizballah views closer in order to sign a lasting peace agreement.

Velayati, who was also here earlier last week on a similar mission, held separate talks with Amal and Hizballah leaders late Saturaday night.

In lengthy talks with members of the leadership council of Hizballah which lasted till mid-night, Velayati stressed the need for reaching a comprehensive agreement to end the fighting.

Meanwhile Syrian foreign minister met separately with Amal and Hizballah leaders in a bid to become further aquainted with their views towards a comprehensive peace.

Al-Shar''s meeting with Amal leaders was also attended by Vice-Speaker of Supreme Assembly of the Lebanese Shi'te Muslims Shaykh Mahdi Shams al-Din and Lebanese Shi'te Alim Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan.

Velayati was here early last week to help to bring an end to the bloodshed between Amal and Hizballah forces in which at least 150 have been killed and many others have been wounded.

Velayati's earlier talks with Al-Shar' and Amal and Hizballah leaders resulted in a short-lived cease-fire between Amal and Hizballah. The cease-fire which was declared Thursday morning lasted only a few hours and fighting again erupted between members of the two groups.

Velayati, Al-Shar' Review Talks

JN2901140089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met this morning at the Foreign Ministry in a bilateral meeting in the presence of the Syrian and Iranian delegations. During this meeting, they reviewed the results of the discussions and contacts which took place yesterday.

Al-Shar' Sees Amal's Birri

NC2901151889 Paris AFP in English 1455 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Damascus, Jan 29 (AFP)—The foreign ministers of Syria and Iran, Faruq al-Shar' and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, met here Sunday for the second time in less than 24 hours to seek a settlement to Lebanon's inter-Shi'ite strife.

After the three-hour meeting, informed sources said, Mr. Velayati met with a delegation of the Iranian-backed Hizballah movement led by Shaykh Ibrahim al-Amin.

Mr. al-Shar' was meanwhile in conference with Nabih Birri, the head of Amal, Hizballah's staunchest rival in Lebanon.

The belligerents, both from the Moslem Shi'ite community, have been fighting intermittently since last April for the control of southern Lebanon and Beirut's southern suburbs.

Correspondents here reported that Amal and Hizballah representatives failed to hold face-to-face talks.

But Mr. Birri told reporters an agreement with Hizballah could emerge Sunday, adding that he had presented the Syrian officials with "positive suggestions" to end the conflict. [passage omitted]

'Comprehensive Solution' Found

LD2901163689 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 29, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Syrian opposite number Faruq al-Shar' reached a comprehensive solution to end Lebanon's Amal-Hizballah fratricide during their second round of talks in Damascus today.

Velayati who arrived here yesterday had conferred with members of Hizballah leadership council for five hours last night while Al-Shar' discoursed with Amal leaders.

But Amal leader Nabih Birri, in a talk with IRNA today, reiterated his earlier demand that his militia will compromise only when the alleged murderers of Amal commanders are handed over.

Three Amal commanders Dawud Dawud, Mahmud al-Faqih, and Hasan Sabiti were killed in Lebanon on Sept. 11 last year. Amal has accused Hizballah of the murders, while the latter denies the charge.

Birri, who holds a minister's portfolio in acting Premier Salim al-Huss' cabinet is to leave for Tunis Monday to participate in an Arab committee session aimed at solving Lebanon's other problem the dual government crisis, stemming from the Maronite renegade Michael Awn's forming of a separate government in Christian areas.

Velayati is scheduled to fly back home tonight from his Damascus visit, the second in a week.

Birri Makes 'Positive' Proposals

NC2901171189 Beirut Voice of the National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Contacts and consultations are continuing in Damascus in an attempt to end the fratricidal fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah and to reach a final agreement over this fighting with Damascus and Tehran sponsorship.

A 3-hour meeting was held at the Syrian Foreign Ministry today between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his Iranian counterpart, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Velayati later left for the Iranian Embassy, where he met with a Hizballah delegation.

The Syrian minister received Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri and the movement's delegation for the second time. Birri affirmed that he had presented positive proposals for the sake of reaching an agreement. He added that it is likely that an agreement will be reached today.

'Comprehensive Accord' Reached

JN3001072789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] As a result of the joint efforts exerted by the SAR and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Amal Movement and Hizballah have reached a comprehensive accord.

The accord is expected to be announced today. A comprehensive accord was reached late last night after a series of discussions held by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati in separate meetings with the Amal delegation

led by
meetin Nabih Birri and the Hizballah delegation. The
Diya'a ngs were attended by Assistant Foreign Minister
and th allah al-Fattal, Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an,
he chief of the Asian Desk at the Foreign Ministry.

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Velayati, Hizballah Official Speak

01072589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
GMT 30 Jan 89

[Louis
s Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Exerp
was he pts] [Passage omitted] Following the meeting that
hand eld between the Syrian and Iranian sides on one
Velaya and the Hizballah delegation on the other, Dr
agreen ati told the press: Thank God, we have reached an
an agr ment, and Amal and Hizballah have finally reached
cooper greement. We hope the two parties will resume
agreen eration in Lebanon in future, and they will sign the
ment today.
He ad
public dded: The contents of the agreement will be made
in this c after it has been signed. The most important point
Dama is agreement is that on a cease-fire. I will remain in
ascus until the two sides sign the agreement.
Hizbal
God, allah official Shaykh Ibrahim al-Amin said: Thank
brothe we can now say that the talks and efforts of the
results ers in Syria and Iran have produced positive
agreen ts. We can also say that we have reached a final
ment whose contents will be made public today.
When
This
agreen n Al-Amin was asked about the hostages, he replied:
issue has nothing to do with us, or with the
ment.

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1210 G

Monte Carlo Reports Agreement

001130389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
GMT 30 Jan 89

[Louis
is Faris dispatch from Damascus]
Kan'a
sinatio erpt] [Passage omitted] Brigadier General Ghazi
Mahm an has announced that those accused of the assas-
over sion of Amal Movement leaders Dawud Dawud,
Kan'a mud al-Faqih, and Hasan Sabiti have been handed
Kuray and are now with the Syrian forces in Lebanon.
forces an added: The person accused of killing Shaykh 'Ali
ayyim has also been handed over to the Syrian
The fes.
Faruq
Hizba fourth round of bilateral talks between Ministers
q al-Shar' and Velayati was held this morning. The
A sho allah delegation joined the meeting later.
lawye
buildi ort while ago, the Amal Movement delegation under
join th er Nabih Birri entered the Syrian Foreign Ministry's
ding. Nabih Birri told the press: We have come to
the meeting, depending on God.

Some 2 hours ago, Dr Velayati made the following statement: We can now say that the four-way meeting of Amal, Syria, Hizballah, and Iran will take place. We hope that Amal and Hizballah will sign the agreement. Of course, Syria and Iran will guarantee its implementation.

Asked if the Amal-Hizballah agreement will pave the way for the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon, Dr Velayati said: I hope that all the foreign hostages, irrespective of their nationalities, will be released very soon on the basis of humanitarian considerations.

Everybody is waiting for the announcement of the signing of the agreement and its provisions.

Commentary Calls Rabin Plan 'Insidious Curtain'

JN2201165089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The other day, Zionist War Minister Yitzhaq Rabin came up with a plan of his own calling for what he termed a peaceful settlement with the Palestinians. For all the language in which the plan was couched, giving it the luster of peace, and the olive branch waved by Rabin, in reality it is nothing more than an insidious curtain concealing a gun that has consistently sought to hit the Palestinians and Arabs and subdue them.

Rabin—who now spearheads a new brutal drive to put down the uprising with iron and fire and a package of measures involving more home demolitions, killings, and other forms of terror—hopes to reap the fruit of his new campaign through intimidation and terror on the one hand and holding out what he called his peace initiative on the other.

The Israeli war minister thinks that his new military effort, representing a new, advanced step along the road of the Zionist genocidal war against the Palestinian people, will produce a submission of the heroic uprising to his proposal, which he said comprises four successive stages: Bringing calm back to the West Bank and Gaza Strip; calling free and fair elections for a Palestinian leadership to negotiate with Israel; setting up self-rule; and finally negotiating a permanent solution to the Palestinian problem.

Strikingly, the first item on Rabin's plan concerns ending the uprising. Indeed, this is the only item that interests Israel, for the uprising is its major preoccupation now. Once it has managed to crush it, Israel will no longer be interested in anything else in the Paelstinian arena. Hence,it becomes clear that the other items, which are meaningless and irrelevant and seek to liquidate the Palestinian cause, are merely smokescreens to obfuscate

matters both in the Palestinian camp and internationally. This is because Israel wants to create the illusion that it is seeking peace and offering the Palestinians peace initiatives. Except that these Zionist strategems no longer deceive anyone.

Indeed, they amount to a new, powerful incentive for keeping up the momentum of and escalating the uprising. This would mean that the Israeli arm is beginning to weaken and the valiant uprising to force retreat on the Israelis. We are all too aware that Rabin's initiative is stillborn and an imminent initiative bearing the signature of the entire Shamir government will meet with the same fate since it is inspired by the same mentality and similarly seeks to crush the uprising ahead of liquidating the Palestinian cause. Still, we realize that the battle is severe and harsh.

Israel is a rabid enemy that cares for nothing beyond its security and hegemony over others. Therefore, the Palestinian right to an independent state can only be attained through escalating and sustaining the uprising as well as hurting Israel, robbing it of the ability to destroy our will, and draining it of its savagery with heightened steadfastness and sacrifice.

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Scores Diplomatic Withdrawals

LD2701175789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesperson made the following statement on the decision of a number of Western embassies in Kabul to withdraw their employees before 15 February for security reasons:

Recently, in connection with the withdrawal of the limited Soviet military contingents in accordance with the Geneva accords, a number of well-known circles have been spreading propaganda to intensify the psychological war against the Republic of Afghanistan and to instill fear in the people. They are spreading the propaganda that Kabul's security will be disrupted by the withdrawal of the Soviet contingents by 15 February.

Consequently, by withdrawing their diplomats from Afghanistan at this time, a number of Western countries are trying on the one hand to boost the armed Afghan oppositions' defeated military and political spirit for the fratricidal war. On the other hand, they are trying to distort public opinion to instill fear in the people.

The truth of the matter is that, despite the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingents from the majority of the country's provinces, the Afghan Armed Forces have safely defended the security of the country's cities and provinces.

The armed extremists will soon have to realize the harsh reality that they are confronted by Afghanistan's patriotic sons overflowing with national spirit, who are ready to fully defend the country's independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty, despite all of the difficulties of the situation.

While we can not see any changes in this connection with those countries' decision, [to withdraw their employees] we believe that this action, along with interference, is a continuation of the psychological war against our people and our country.

We can also say that those countries' decisions do not emanate from their lack of trust in the Afghan Armed Forces and security forces' ability to maintain peace and security in the country. Rather, it represents their fear of criminal actions by the armed extremists, whom they themselves fostered.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry believes that these countries very soon will realize the futility of their decisions, for our powerful Armed Forces will never allow the security of the cities' inhabitants—especially those in Kabul as well as diplomatic personnel and employees of international organizations—to be endangered.

Over the last 9 years, only the Afghan Armed Forces and security forces have been responsible for the security of the employees of political representations and international organizations, and they have fulfilled this responsibility in the best manner. The nonoccurence of even the smallest incident endangering the security of the embassies and their staffs during this time bears witness to this claim.

'Psychological Warfare' Cited

BK2801144089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1427 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Kabul, Jan 28 (AFP)—The Afghan Government Saturday [28 January] denounced the closure of several Western embassies here as "psychological warfare" aimed at giving the false impression that security in the capital had deteriorated.

"During the past nine years it was Afghan soldiers, not Soviet soldiers, who provided security at embassies. Nothing has changed, they are still capable of maintaining this protection," an Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He said the Western countries which had decided to pull out were engaging in "psychological warfare" aimed at "persuading world public opinion that security in Kabul could no longer be guaranteed, which is false."

The decisions were taken amid increasing uncertainty in Kabul as the Soviet troop withdrawal nears completion on February 15. The capital is suffering acute shortages of fuel and staples due to rebel pressure and bad weather. [passage omitted]

USSR Defense Minister Yazov Arrives in Kabul

Meets With Najibullah, Ministers

LD2700162300 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, met with His Excellency Dmitriy Yazov, USSR defense minister, this afternoon in his office.

At this meeting which was held in a completely friendly and understanding atmosphere, a number of issues on bilateral cooperaton and other subjects of interest were discussed.

According to a report from the presidency's press office, the USSR defense minister arrived in Kabul this morning on a working visit.

At Kabul airport he was welcomed by Vice President Lt Gen Muhammad Rafi', Defense Minister Lt Gen Shahnawaz Tanay, and Interior Minister Maj Gen Muhammad Aslam Watanjar.

The USSR ambassador in Kabul was also present at the airport welcome.

Meets Again With Najibullah

LD2801173189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The Presidency's press office reports that following yesterday's meeting esteemed Afghan President Najibullah met again today with His Excellency Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov.

In the course of meetings, which were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, a number of issues on bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest were discussed. Both sides considered positive and satisfactory the results of His Excellency Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's recent visit to Kabul.

His Excellency Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov noted that the Soviet Union is withdrawing its military units from Afghanistan in line with previous requests of the Republic of Afganistan and in the spirit and letter of the Geneva agreements, having goodwill and sentiments toward the people of Afghanistan and with the motive of the further consolidation and continuation of friendship.

Similarly, the Soviet defense minister conveyed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's assurance that the Soviet Union would not abandon its friends in the PDPA Central Committee, headed by Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah; the Afghan people; or the PDPA and its political allies, and that the Soviet Union would give them plenty of due aid.

In the course of the talks, the Soviet Union's comprehensive assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan was emphasized.

Both sides expressed the view that the people of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and the world community on the whole hope that with the withdrawal of the Soviet Union forces from Afghanistan, Pakistan will seriously and honestly observe the promises it undertook in the Geneva accords on noninterference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Both sides also expressed the view that actual observance of the Geneva accords by all related sides would contribute to stability and peace in the region.

In the course of the talks, both sides insisted on the bright prospects of Afghan-Soviet cooperation with respect to further strengthening the Afghan Armed Forces to safeguard Afghanistan's national sovereignty and territorial integrity as an independent and nonaligned country.

Esteemed Afghan President N
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Najibullah, on his behalf
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n's all-round assistance to
n various fields.

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Departs for Ho

LD2901182289 Kabul Domesti

1530 GMT 29 Jan 89

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[Text] Mr D. Yazov, minister
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waz Tanay, minister of
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USSR Planning Committee'

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Meets With N

Najibullah

LD2901163189 Kabul Domesti

1530 GMT 29 Jan 89

tic Service in Pashto

[Text] This morning in his off
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The presidential press office
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issues related to the continuatio
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During the meeting, which to
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The Soviet side stated that the S
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Soviet Union, particularly
fulfill all its commitments
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toward the state of the Republic of Afghanistan under the leadership of Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and the people of Afghanistan.

The meeting was attended by Konstantin Katushev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign trade relations; Boris Gostev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of finance; and Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR ambassador and plenipotentiary extraordinary in Kabul.

Another report notes that His Excellency Yu. Maslyukov, as head of a high-ranking delegation of the Soviet Union, arrived this morning in Kabul on a working visit.

Deputy Prime Minister Mr Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin and a number of high-ranking officials welcomed the delegation at Kabul international airport.

Discusses Aid With Sharq

LD2901175389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Afghan Prime Minister Hasan Sharq met today with Yuriy Maslyukov, alternate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and head of the USSR State Planning Committee, at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers.

During the course of the meeting they discussed the possibilities for further development in socioeconomic relations. They assessed issues related to improving the situation concerning the USSR's grants-in-aid and the consignment of foodstuffs to the residents of Kabul Province and city. The consolidation of trade and economic relations between the Afghan private sector and the Soviet Union was emphasized.

The Soviet side pledged to the prime minister of Afghanistan its readiness to develop economic and trade aid to the Republic of Afghanistan to alleviate the problems of the Afghan people.

The prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan thanked the Government of the USSR for its goodwill and attention to the economic revival of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Present at the meeting from the Afghan side were Minister of Commerce Muhammad Khan Husayn and Minister of Planning Sultan Husayn; and from the Soviet side the members of the delegation accompanying Mr Maslyukov, and Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR ambassador to Afghanistan.

Settlement Negotiations at 'Decisive' Stage

BK2901131389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1251 GMT 29 Jan 89

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Jan 29 (AFP)—Negotiations for a peaceful settlement to the Afghan conflict have reached a decisive stage, with all parties to the conflict in contact with each other for the first time, diplomatic sources said.

"It has developed into a race against time which supporters of a political settlement must win against those who want to continue the war after the Soviet troops withdraw," a diplomat specialising in the Afghan problem said.

Several diplomats and resistance leaders appeared sceptical of chances for a face-saving settlement for the Soviets, saying it would not last three months.

"You cannot end 10 years of civil war without breaking eggs," the specialist added.

Under the terms of the Geneva accords signed last April by Pakistan and Afghanistan, Soviet troops must withdraw from the country by February 15.

Western diplomats here said the pace of the withdrawal would have to pick up if the Soviets were to meet the deadline.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is to arrive here on Saturday on a day's visit, the first in 20 years by a ranking Soviet official.

His stay will follow a surprise visit by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Velayati, due to arrive Tuesday at Teheran's behest for talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Yaqub Khan, and to meet with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Mr Yaqub Khan also was on the move, leaving here Sunday for a suprise visit to Saudi Arabia, his second in less than a month.

Meanwhile, United Nations negotiator Benan Sevan has continued to shuttle between Kabul and Islamabad promoting discussions between the Soviet-backed Afghan Government and the seven-party resistance alliance based in Peshawar. [passage omitted]

Discussions to resolve the Afghan conflict are being held on three levels.

The first involves talks between moderate and fundamentalist sunni mujahidin groups in Peshawar on representatives to a traditional council planned next month to form an interim government in Kabul after the pullout.

Discussions are also being held between the Peshawar alliance and eight shi'ite resistance groups based in Iran on how many of the 480 seats in the council will be assigned to the Iranian group, who have asked for 120 seats instead of the 60 they have been offered.

The third set of talks is being held on the international level between Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia, with Islamabad playing a coordinating role for the U.S.-backed mujahidin.

The United Nations and Mr Yaqub Khan want the mujahidin and their backers, Iran and Saudi Arabia, to accept a plan to include "good Moslems" in the council.

The "good Moslems" would not belong to the ruling communist People's Democratic Party but would be close enough to the Kabul government to be able to represent the interests of its supporters among the Afghan people.

Rebel sources said there was also strong disagreement between moderates and fundamentalists on whether former monarch Zahir Shah, currently in exile in Rome, should be included in the council.

U.S. Embassy diplomats remained "very cautious" about hopes for a lasting negotiated settlement in Afghanistan, embassy sources said.

If a meeting of the new council set for February 10 in Peshawar fails to take place, Islamabad is seriously considering setting up an interim government nominated by consensus.

Security Forces Operations Along Salang Highway

LD2701202189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Quoting a spokesman for the security forces, BAKHTAR reported that as a result of recent Armed Forces combat operations carried out along the Salang highway, a large number of armed extremists, including a number of commanders attached to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's group, were killed. Thirty weapons depots, 4 vehicles, and 12 enemy strongholds were destroyed.

In addition, huge storehouse of stolen items consisting of such government and private commercial goods as refrigerators, televisions, foodstuffs, and other commodities plundered by the extremist groups was discovered by the Armed Forces.

The security forces added that the extremist groups attached to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud have for some time been robbing and plundering foodstuffs and fuel carried by the convoys in order to bring Kabul citizens further hardships and problems with the shortage of foodstuffs and fuel during the bitter cold winter weather.

So far, these murderous extremist groups have set fire to 89 vehicles and evacuated and plundered the freight from the 517 vehicles belonging to government and private transportation enterprises. In addition, they have mercilessly martyred a number of innocent passengers and drivers engaged in transporting foodstuffs and fuel to Kabul.

The security forces added that the responsible Afghan authorities have endeavored by various peaceful means and methods to prevent the closure of the Salang highway and attacks on convoys carrying foodstuffs, fuel, and commercial goods to Kabul city and other regions of the country.

However, the extremist groups did not give a positive reply to the call for peace and reason. They stated their intention to plunder the basic commodities of uor people, contrary to Islamic law, thereby putting women, children, and the elderly in a difficult situation during this cold weather.

It should be noted that the Western mass media is shedding crocodile tears over the shameful defeat of these extremist groups, which have been transformed into professional thieves and plunderers along the Salang highway. They regard the operations carried out by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan against these robbers as merciless.

However, the same Western mass media that until yesterday had been seeing the extremist groups' plunder along the Salang highway, knowing that the purpose of these actions was to create hardship for the people of Kabul, have chosen to remain completely silent on this point.

President's Office Statement on Salang Security

LD2701211789 Kabul Dometic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Presidential press office announcement]

[Excerpts] Our dear compatriots are aware that in the last month two statements were issued by the Afghan Armed Fores High Command in connection with the destructive activities along the Salang highway and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's armed groups blocking of it.

In these statements, the many peaceful measures by the Republic of Afghanistan were explained in order to attract the cooperation of Ahmad Shah Ma'sud to insure the security of the Salang highway and to prevent the stealing and plundering of the convoys carrying foodstuffs and other goods needed by the citizens of Kabul and the inhabitants of other parts of the country.

In these statements there was also mention of the letters sent to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud previously in which an invitation was extended to him to start talks and negotiations with the Republic of Afghanistan in order to

prevent bloodshed and insure peace in the vicinity of Salang. We now release the contents of these letters for the information of our dear compatriots.

First letter, dated 16 May 1988:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Dear Brother Ahmad Shah Mas'ud:

Peace, God's blessing, and mercy be with you. First I present my regards to you and hope you are in good health. In continuation of my last letter, I draw your attention once again to the present determining stage for the destiny of our homeland and people. [passage omitted]

My envoy will give you information about the country and about the exact date I will travel. If you can join me there it will be better. If you agree, we can also speak at the international level from one podium for the sake of national compromise, peace, and the reconstruction of the homeland.

Dear brother, time is valuable. History sometimes provides man with opportunities. We should not waste time, which passes quickly and parallel to which possibilities change.

Once again I offer my regards and hopes for a meeting between us as soon as possible. I say goodbye. Our intention for peace for our people is pure and God is witness to our action. Success comes from God.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan

Second letter, dated 4 October 1988:

Esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud:

Extending my best wishes for the insuring of peace and an end to war and bloodshed, I write to you on behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan.

For almost 10 years war and bloodshed have continued in our country. [passage omitted]

For certain reasons requiring quick action, I hope to receive within 1 week a written reply to my letter on your decision to meet me.

With best regards,

[Signed] Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan

As was also mentioned in the Armed Forces High Command statements Ahmad Shah Mas'ud not only did not give any written or oral reply to the letters sent by the state, but he wasted time for various reasons and continued to plunder and steal public property, resort to highway robbery, burn state and private transportation vehicles, and kill passengers and drivers along the Salang highway.

These anti-national and anti-people actions by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud demonstrate the fact that shelling and rocketing residential areas of cities and localities is not enough for the extremists supported by the Pakistani military men. By blocking highways and plundering the convoys of private and state vehicles, they want to kill people through hunger and famine.

The Armed Forces High Command statements warned that if the blocking of the Salang highway continued, the responsibility for its grave consequences would rest on those who prefer war to peace.

However, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud did not pay any attention to these warnings, despite the fact that a number of his armed groups were weary of war and were in favor of peace and understanding with the Republic of Afghanistan. He continued his terrorist and plundering actions.

Naturally, the Republic of Afghanistan, after carrying out these peace-loving measures and preventing armed clashes, could no longer remain indifferent to these anti-national and anti-Islamic actions by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

Therefore, the Republic of Afghanistan, which is entrusted with the responsibility of insuring the public the necessary primary goods and the security of highways, was forced to instruct the Armed Forces to free the vicinity of the Salang highway from the evil of these criminals and thieves from the mountains.

Therefore, responsibility for all the bloodshed and destruction that will take place will rest solely with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

Salang Highway Reopened; Food Reaches Jalalabad
OW2801150089 Tokyo KYODO in English 1427 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 28 KYODO—An Afghan resistance leader whose group commands the strategic highway linking Kabul with the Soviet Union Saturday announced that the road has been opened to traffic between two countries following "heaviest ever bombardment" for last three days of villages along the highway by Soviet and Afghan government forces.

A famine-line situation had been created because of the blockade of the highway by the mujahidin of Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud belonging to the Jamiyat-e Eslami.

Jamiyat-e E
that a food slami leader Burhanuddin Rabbani also said based muja convoy of 40 trucks sent by the Pakistan- its destinat hidin to the border city of Jalalabad reached the governr on Friday after facing an artillery attack by nent forces.

The Jamiya
to have said -e Eslami chief quoted Ahmad Shah Mas'ud bombing of in a message received Friday that the heavy last three d the villages along the Salang highway for the direct talks ys was in fact meant to force him to agree to with the Kabul regime.

BK2901052 **Mujahidin End Blockade**
0500 GMT 89 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu
29 Jan 89

[Text] In
have ende fghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to carrying fo the blockade of the Salang pass. A convoy the Salang dstuffs and supplies has reached Kabul via the Soviet ighway which is a strategic supply route from Jnion.

According
Kabul with o reports, this is the first convoy to reach blockade o he badly needed supplies since the economic the Afghan capital by the mujahidin.

Rabbani
BK2801151 **leges 'Intensive' Soviet Bombing Raids**
1500 GMT 89 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
28 Jan 89

[Text] A le
Mujahidin der of the seven-party Islamic Alliance of the has accus of Afghanistan, Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani, bombing r the Soviet Union of carrying out intensive ds in various parts of Afghanistan.

He said a
surprising a news conference in Islamabad that it is forces ge hat as the date for the withdrawal of Soviet war. He closer, the Soviet Union is intensifying the heavy bo ded that the Kabul regime has carried out mujahidin bing raids on food convoys sent by the or the Afghan people.

BK2801151 **Calls for UN Investigation**
28 Jan 89 489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1505 GMT

[Text] Is
leader B nabad, Jan 28 (AFP)—Afghan resistance asked Un anuddin Rabbani Saturday [28 January] Cuellar d Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Afghanis personally investigate Soviet air raids in .

"The Sov
bombing warplanes have resorted to unprecedented large nu the northern Afghan region, killing a very several d er of our innocent civilians for the past ," Mr. Rabbani told a press conference here.

He asked
atrocities r. de Cuellar to "personally look into the Afghanis eing committed by the Soviet forces in ."

Mr. Rabbani said the air raids were heaviest in Panjsher, Takhar and Baghlan provinces to the north of Kabul, adding that "the bombing itself was not surprising. What is surprising is that instead of trying to heal the wounds of the past, the Soviets are using the last bombs in their last hours."

Soviet troops are due to complete their withdrawal from Afghanistan by February 15 under the terms of last year's U.N.-brokered Geneva accords.

Mr. Rabbani accused Soviet troops of using food convoys into Kabul to smuggle weapons including SS-1 Scud missiles into the capital, which has been virtually surrounded by the guerrillas and is facing severe food shortages.

He denied guerrillas had blocked the Salang road linking Kabul and the Soviet Union and were attacking Soviet troops withdrawing along the road.

Hundreds of Afghan civilians were killed north and south of the strategic Salang tunnel some 80 kilometres (50 miles) from Kabul when Soviet troops and elite Afghan Army units conducted bombing attacks on Monday in a bid to keep the highway open.

Diplomats quoted witnesses and Afghan sources as saying that Soviet and Afghan artillery had obliterated all dwellings south of the tunnel and that Soviet tanks were seen rolling over the bodies of victims along the road.

Mr. Rabbani said the mujahidin had no plans to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during his one-day visit to Pakistan on February 4, but said he was worried Mr. Shevardnadze might try to force Islamabad into pressuring Afghan refugees to return too soon and "create problems for us."

Sharq Tours Balkh Province Food Storehouses
LD2801184989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq visited Mazar-e Sharif, capital of Balkh Province, today to inspect the storehouses of foodstuffs and consumer commodities in Hayratan.

Accompanied by the ministers of construction affairs, transportation, and civil aviation, and by the governor of Balkh Province, the prime minister went to the Holy Shrine of 'Ali—peace be upon him—on his arrival to offer a prayer for the tranquility and prosperity of the Afghan people and for the restoration of peace in the country.

Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq and his entourage then visited Hayratan border installations and witnessed the loading and unloading of freight and commodities and the storehouses for Soviet grants in Hayratan and Mazar-e Sharif. Speaking with officials of Balkh Province and

Hayratan city, he gave specific instructions with regard to accelerating the transportation of freight and commodities from Hayratan to Kabul and other regions of the country.

The storehouses of Hayratan contain such foodstuffs as wheat, flour, sugar, rice, butter, and tea, as well as petroleum products and a large amount of consumer goods.

The prime minister and his entourage returned to Kabul this afternoon.

The Ministry of Planning reported to BAKHTAR that the Afghan and Soviet authorities recently signed documents on the delivery of R70 million worth of flour, fabrics, blankets, clothing, bedding, and other goods. These goods, consisting of 22,000 tons of wheat, 1,000 tons of flour, 31 million meters of fabric, in addition to blankets, quilts, and bedding, as well as other commodities, valued at R1.5 million had been delivered to the Afghan side at Hayratan by 21 January.

Moreover, the delivery to the Afghan side of such foodstuffs and consumer goods as sugar, salt, eggs, soap, chemical fertilizers, diesel fuel, tires and inner tubes, bedding, dishes, and pesticides has taken place. The relevant documents soon will be signed by the Afghan and Soviet sides.

The source added that these goods, which are very important for our people and country at this sensitive stage, were delivered as part of the Soviet Union's continuing participation in the UN humanitarian and economic assistance program for the revival and economic reconstruction of Afghanistan, which is under the supervision of Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan.

These goods will be [word indistinct] and kept at the Hayratan border area, Balkh Province, and Kabul. It is hoped that the UN humanitarian and economic assistance to our returning compatriots and other deserving inhabitants of our country will be accelerated in the near future and that the distribution of the above-mentioned goods under UN supervision, which has already begun, will also be accelerated.

Food Convoy Arrives in Kabul Via Salang Highway

LD2701201989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] A convoy of 112 state and private vehicles, carrying foodstuffs and fuel, today arrived in Kabul via the Salang highway.

According to the BIA, today's convoy contained 550 tons of wheat and 970 tons of fuel, including diesel, kerosene, and gasoline, as well as beans, coal, cement, and other retail consumer goods to be made available to Kabul inhabitants. The convoy made it to Kabul with the cooperation of Armed Forces units and companies, which make every effort to ensure security and the transportation of goods along the Salang highway.

However, plundering extremists have resorted to looting and stealing foodstuffs and preventing the transportation of goods to Kabul. These plunderers today also emptied the contents of five transport vehicles.

Food, Fuel Continue To Arrive

LD2801182889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Foodstuffs and fuel are still arriving in Kabul. Two-hundred vehicles carrying goods arrived today in Kabul. Our correspondent spoke with a responsible official:

[Begin recording] Foodstuffs, consumer goods, and fuel are continuing to arrive in Kabul. They are being transported in Kamaz transport vehicles via the Kabul-Hayratan highway by state corporations No 1, No 2, No 3, and No 4; by the private sector; by the Petroleum Complex Corporation; and by the Armed Forces. The 200 Afghan Tiyur vehicles, which arrived in the capital today, were carrying wheat, flour, ghee, and rice. We will report every day on the radio the arrival of goods in Kabul. [end recording]

Armed Forces Combat Operations 26-27 Jan

LD2701190889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] A reliable source in the Armed Forces informed the BIA military section on the military situation over the past 24 hours:

Parvan Province: The Armed Forces carried out a clean-up operation in the [word indistinct] area in the regions between Qal'eh-ye Tak and (Olang) in Parvan Province. The security forces destroyed 15 of the enemy's DShK's, 7 mortars, 9 ZK-1's, and a large quantity of plundered flour, rice, and sugar in the operation.

Kabul Province and environs: About 1300 today, extremist elements fired five surface-to-surface missiles on residential regions of Kabul. One missile struck Fayz Muhammad's [not further identified house in the seventh ward, martyring 12-year-old Hafizullah, son of [word indistinct] a pupil at Qalacheh school. The other four missiles hit the first, seventh, eighth, and ninth wards of Kabul. No loss of life was reported, but there were material losses.

According to another report, a section of Sorobi school was damaged in a heavy artillery attack by extremists from Jegdalek region.

According to another report, 6 surface-to-surface missiles, deployed in the Paghman district environs, positioned to strike residential regions of Kabul, were discovered and dismantled today.

The artillery forces stationed in Sorobi district inflicted crushing blows on enemy pockets, killing 12 extremists and wounding another 7. One rocket launcher, 2 mortars, and 1 DShK were also destroyed in the operation.

Ten warmongering extremists were killed and a large number were seriously wounded by artillery blows inflicted on extremist pockets in the Kabul environs.

Qandahar Province: As a result of artillery and aerial blows, 25 extremists attached to the Gulbuddin group were killed in the Qandahar Province environs. Three Armed Forces personnel were wounded when extremists fired 47 shells at security posts around Qandahar city.

Nangarhar Province: The Armed Forces carried out a clean-up operation in (Gerdi Ghows) region, Batsawul district, Nangarhar Province, seizing 70 anti-vehicle mines, 600 anti-personnel mines, 50 mortars, and 6 rockets. The Armed Forces suffered no losses in this operation.

Military Situation 27-28 Jan

LD2801183489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] A reliable source in the Armed Forces reported to BAKHTAR the following on the military situation in the country during the last 24 hours:

Parvan: As a result of blows from the artillery forces on the gathering place of the extremists in the region of (Chekal) in Bagram, five extremists were killed and three were badly wounded. Also as a result Armed Forces clean-up operations in the region of Jabal os Saraj, two Kalashnikovs, a wireless system, and two boxes of hand grenades were seized by the country's security forces.

Paktia: As a result of extremist heavy weapons fire on Khowst major district, a number of soldiers were martyred and three civilians were injured.

Balkh: As a result of extremist heavy weapons fire in some parts of Balkh Province, four members of the Armed Forces were martyred and two others were wounded.

Kabol: As a result of Armed Forces' crushing blows on extremist hideouts in the vincinity of Sorowbi district, eight elements attached to the extremists groups were killed and five were wounded. Two recoilless guns, a mortar, a rocket projectile system, and seven strongholds were destroyed. Also in the course of this operation 110 anti-vehicles mines belonging to the armed extremists were defused.

According to another report, as a result of extremist fire in residential areas of Sorowbi district, a civilian was injured. Also as a result of armed clashes between the Rabbani and Gulbuddin groups in the surroundings of Shakar Darreh, two persons from both sides were killed.

Baghlan: Extremist heavy weapons fire in residential areas resulted in three civilians were martyred on the 6th, 7th and 8th streets in Baghlan city. Also, as a result of crushing blows by the Armed Forces in some parts of that country, a ringleader of the so-called Hezb-e Eslami was killed and three others were injured.

Qandahar: As a result of crushing blows by the artillery and air forces in Daman district, 12 extremists were killed including their four ringleaders, Lal Muhammad, 'Abdul Wakil, Jahangir and Hadir. Another 25 were badly injured.

In the course of this operation, four rocket launchers, a mortar, a DShK, a recoilless gun, and 40 light weapons belonging to the extremists were destroyed. According to another report, as a result of blows by the artillery forces in the region of (Mehalajat), six extremists were killed and four were injured.

According to another report, as a result of extremist fire on Qandahar's airport, six security personnel were injured.

Farah: Armed Forces' crushing blows on the gathering place of extremists in Delaram resulted in 9 extremists being killed and 22 were badly injured. In the course of this operation, 20 anti-vehicle mines belonging to the extremists were discovered and defused.

Lowgar: As a result of the crushing blows by the country's Armed Forces on extremist hideouts in the vicinity of Muhammad Agha, a ringleader of the extremists group of Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi, Amanullah was killed and another person was injured.

Zabol: As a result of armed clashes between the extremists in some parts of the province, five persons from both sides were killed and one was injured.

Fayab: Extremist heavy weapons fire in the regions of Pashtun Kowt and (Sabaz) resulted in three members of the country's Armed Forces being wounded.

Badakhshan: As a result of crushing blows by the Armed Forces on extremist gathering places in the vicinity of Shahr-e Bozorg district, four warmongering extremists were killed and three others were wounded.

Laghman: As a result of extremists' fire on the region of Khayrow Khel in this province, three members of the Armed Forces were martyred. Based on another report, as a result of armed clashes between the group of Mullah Muhammad Jan attached to the extremists of Muhammad Nabi and Parvez belonging to the group of so-called

Hizballah in the border regions of the district of (Jowin), Farah Province, two members of Parvez were killed and five others from the hostile group were arrested by the Parvez group.

Four Pakistani advisers came to Farah Province together with members of the extremists group of Gulbuddin to cause fear, terror, and destruction. One of them was recently killed while planting a mine. As a result of an explosion caused by this mine, another one of them together with three members of the aforementioned group were badly injured.

Similarly, as a result of armed clashes between the members of the extremists groups of Gulbuddin and Muhammad Nabi in some parts of Farah Province, three persons from the hostile sides were killed.

BAKHTAR Claims Rebels Plunder National Wealth
LD3001061489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0442 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 29 BAKHTAR—In the course of the current year (started 20 March 1988), especially after the signing of the Geneva accords the opposition groups were talking of capturing cities, but, these visions were in vain. They in their atttacks over cities were severely pounded and driven from the suburbs of those cities away.

Becoming disappointed of the results of these attacks the extremists at the behest of their Pakistani and American masters resorted to another Satanic act. They through their firing of long range missiles caused remarkable human and material losses to innocent civilians, including women, children and old people, in the capital and other strategic cities of Afghanistan.

The recent inhuman action of the extremists against the Kabul residents was blocking of the Salang highway. They through this act were futilely trying to face Kabul with famine and starvation in this unprecedented cold winter. The opposition commanders Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and 'Abdul Haq have declared Kabul economic blockade with pride.

The extremists must realize this reality that adquate flour, wheat and rice as well as edible oil reach Kabul everyday and the long queues before the bakeries are nothing but myths.

The extremist ringleaders create obstacle for the shipment of essential goods to the capital on one hand and through the Western mass media express readiness to assist tackle Kabul food problem on the other. The aim of such publicity is quite clear. For, the extremists are planning that under the cover of food assistance import deadly armaments in the country and commit subversive activities against the people.

Our people are fully aware that the priceless national wealth such as berite, lapis lazuli, emerald, sapphire and uranium are plundered by the extremists. Large quantities of woods (teak and oak) are smuggled by the extremists from Paktia to Pakistan everyday and our thick forests are facing complete destruction.

The Afghan people condemn these acts of the extremists caused by the continuation of the undeclared war against the Republic of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Large-Scale Violence Reported in Elections
BK2901102089 Hong Kong AFP in English
0954 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Jan 29 (AFP)—Up to six people were reported killed in municipal elections marred by violence which forced authorities to suspend balloting in 20 polling centres, officials and press reports said Sunday.

Most of the 80 towns that held polls Saturday had returned to calm Sunday after the violence, in which some 500 people were injured and the police opened fire in several places.

A senior Home Ministry official here Sunday confirmed only two poll-related deaths—one in Comilla and the other in Narsingdi near Dhaka.

He said that police had to fire warning shots in several places to quell violent mobs and that balloting in 20 centres nationwide was suspended.

The opposition BANGLAR BANI daily reported six casualties from the party-less municipal elections, including two each in eastern Comilla and Lakhsham, one in Narsingdi and one in the southern port of Mongla.

Earlier in the week at least two people were killed and nearly 200 injured.

Some two million people were eligible to cast ballots to elect 80 chairmen and 798 ward commissioners to 80 of Bangladesh's 86 elected municipal councils. Polling in six towns had been postponed earlier under court orders.

Saturday's voting excluded the major cities of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi, where municipal elections were held with March parliamentary polls.

A police official reached by telephone in Comilla said it was calm Sunday after a day of violence in which one person died and many were injured.

He said police fired mostly in the air Saturday in several places to disperse clashing rival election groups. He said a 25-year-old man died of gunshots from a rival group and that some 30 people were arrested on rioting and other charges.

A civil official in coastal Bhola District said life had returned to normal Sunday following poll clashes and police firings there on Saturday.

He said police had to fire 100 rounds of mostly warning shots to quell rioting election mobs and that four people hospitalised with bullet wounds were in serious condition.

The pro-government DAINIK BANGLA daily reported that in southern Faridpur, police fired on a rampaging mob which had set fire to the municipal building and the home of a ruling party leader late Saturday alleging widespread vote-rigging. Firefighters were called in and polling at several centres was halted, it added.

In coastal Patuakhali, local opposition parties called for a daylong general strike Sunday to protest "large-scale rigging and ballot-box snatching" during the vote. Officials there could not be reached for details on the situation.

The mass circulation ITTEFAQ reported that Saturday's polling was marred in at least 20 towns by widespread violence, arson and bomb blasts.

Police opened fire in several places after use of batons and teargas failed to control the situation, it said, adding that several hundred people were arrested.

In the northern industrial town of Tongi, polling in three of 20 centres had to be suspended following fresh clashes between two groups of workers supporting rival candidates. At least 40 people were injured and police detained 16 people, local officials said. [passage omitted]

3 Reported Killed

BK2801151089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] In Bangladesh, large-scale violence marred the polls to 80 municipalities out of 86 today. According to preliminary reports reaching Dhaka, at least three persons were killed and an unspecified number of people injured in police firing and clashes between rival groups during the elections.

The All-India Radio Dhaka correspondent reports 2.4 million voters were eligible to cast votes to elect 80 chairmen and 798 commissioners; 3,841 candidates were in the field.

Prime Minister Rules Out Mid-Term Election

BK2901162889 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The winter session of the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] begins on Wednesday [1 February]. President Ershad will address the inaugural session. At a news conference in Dhaka today, Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed said the president will address the first session of this calendar year under a constitutional provision. The forthcoming session will last about 3 weeks. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question, the prime minister said there is a possibility of bringing a bill on Chittagong Hill Tracts tribal people, and the matter is under consideration.

Replying to another question, Mr Moudud Ahmed categorically said there is no possibility of any mid-term election to parliament.

India

SRV's Nguyen Van Linh Ends Visit to New Delhi

Notes India's Role on Cambodia

BK2701125889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] The general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, Mr Nguyen Van Linh, has said India can make a major contribution in control and supervision of the peace process in Kampuchea.

Speaking to newsmen before leaving New Delhi, Mr Linh said India deserves such a role as it has always stood by developing and newly independent countries.

Referring to the fast-changing situation in South and Southeast Asia, the Vietnamese leader said in view of this the ties between India and Vietnam must be further strengthened.

Seen Off by Gandhi

BK2701160689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] The general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, Mr Nguyen Van Linh, has said India can have a major contribution to the control and supervision of the peace processes in Kampuchea. Speaking to newsmen before leaving New Delhi, Mr Linh said India deserves such a role as it has always stood by developing and newly independent countries.

Commending India's progress in many areas, Mr Linh said the unity which he saw among the different ethnic groups was particularly heartening. Mr Linh said the choice to have him as the chief guest at the Republic Day parade was a privilege and honor for Vietnam.

The visiting dignitary was given a ceremonial send-off at Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and others.

Mr Linh will visit Agra and Calcutta before leaving for Hanoi on Sunday.

Leaves for Agra, Calcutta

BK2801063589 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] On the afternoon of 27 January, the Indian Government held a grand farewell ceremony for Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and those comrades accompanying him on his official friendship visit to the Republic of India with all the rituals reflective of the Indian people's admiration and hospitality for the chief guest of their grand national festive day. The ceremony took place at the presidential palace.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and many high-ranking officials of the Indian Government were present at the farewell ceremony.

After the military band played the two countries' national anthems, a military commander invited Comrade Nguyen Van Linh to review the Honor Guards of the Indian Armed Forces.

Afterward, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh bade farewell to various ministers and other high-ranking officials of the Indian Government. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi also said goodbye to our high-ranking party and government cadres who accompanied the Comrade General Secretary.

The most touching moment was when Prime Minister and Mrs Rajiv Gandhi escorted Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and his wife to their car and the two leaders shook hands firmly and heartily before they parted company.

Together with other high-ranking cadres, Mr Narasimha Rao, minister for external affairs, on behalf of Prime Minister Gandhi, saw Comrade Nguyen Van Linh off at the Palam international airport where a special plane of the Indian Government was waiting to take the distinguished guests to visit Agra City on their way to Calcutta.

Answering questions raised by Indian newsmen before his departure from the presidential place for the airport, the comrade general secretary said that this official friendship visit to the Republic of India has been a fine success and that this visit has contributed greatly to consolidating the already beautiful relationship between Vietnam and India.

The comrade expressed his sincere gratitude to the Indian Government for having invited him to attend the celebration of Republic Day as the chief guest of this major anniversary.

On the same day, Comrade Nguyen Co Thach, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of foreign affairs—who was accompanying Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh on his current visit to India—held a press conference in New Delhi that was attended by a large number of local and foreign press, radio, and television correspondents.

Singh To Visit 3 Countries on Cambodian Issue

BK2701145489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs is leaving for Singapore tomorrow on a 5-day visit to 3 Southeast Asian countries. He will also be visiting Indonesia and Thailand.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that Mr Natwar Singh is scheduled to hold talks with the leaders of these countries on the Kampuchean issue.

Defense Minister on Role in Afghan Issue

BK2701150689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has said that India will continue to use her influence to further the process of normalization in Afghanistan. He said we will continue to extend help and cooperation to all elements which are seeking a true end to the Afghan crisis.

Mr Pant was inaugurating a 2-day colloquium on a nonaligned Afghanistan for peace and stability in the region organized by the Indian Institute for Nonaligned Studies in New Delhi today.

Tibetan Exiles Stage Anti-Chinese Protest

BK3001044289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0412 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Jan 30 (AFP)—Tibetan exiles blaming China for the Panchen Lama's death demonstrated outside the Chinese Embassy here Monday [30 January] and were arrested after hurling petrol-filled bottles at the building.

Some two dozen Tibetan men and women gathered at the embassy at around 6 a.m. (0030 GMT), screaming anti-Chinese slogans, and hurled bottles filled with petrol and sodium at the walls of the mission, witnesses said.

The bottles broke on impact, but failed to explode and caused no damage. Police stamped out a minor fire.

The protestors led by the Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) then squatted on a patch of grass outside the embassy in New Delhi's high-security diplomatic zone and raised anti-Chinese signs before they were dragged away by police.

"Who killed Panchen Lama, the Chinese did, the Chinese did," the demonstrators shouted. "We want justice, we want justice."

Embassy guards appeared taken by surprise by the demonstrators and scrambled briefly to prevent them from storming the mission, but no clashes occurred, the witnesses said.

Additional police, including women, arrived from a nearby police station and took away the demonstrators in three van-loads. A police officer at the scene said they would be detained briefly and released, but not charged.

The protest came a day after China announced that the Panchen Lama, Tibet's second highest spiritual leader, had died of a sudden heart attack in the Tibetan town of Xigaze Saturday. [passage omitted]

17-Member DMK Ministry in Tamil Nadu Sworn In
BK2701163389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Excerpt] In Tamil Nadu, a 17-member DMK ministry headed by Mr Karunanidhi was sworn in in Madras today. The state governor, Dr P.C. Alexander, administered the oath of office to the ministers in Tamil. The swearing in ceremony was held at Valluvar Kottam, the memorial to the saint-poet Tiruvalluvar. This is Mr Karunanidhi's third term as chief minister.

President's rule, which was imposed in the state on the 30th of January last year, was revoked today. [passage omitted]

Curfew Reimposed on Udhampur Town After Violence
BK2901041189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] The situation in Udhampur Town of Jammu and Kashmir is under control. Day curfew was reimposed in the town yesterday following some violence. Over 25 persons, including some policemen, injured in the incidents. Some arrests have been made. Night curfew is also in force in Udhampur.

Meanwhile, one person has been arrested in connection with the bomb blast in Punch Town yesterday. No loss of life or property is reported.

4 Punjab 'Terrorists' Killed in Encounters
BK2801033689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, four more terrorists were killed in separate encounters with security forces last night. A hard-core terrorist, Mangal Singh of Dharamkot, was killed in an encounter near village Rampur in Qadian area of Gurdaspur District.

One Chinese assault rifle and a large quantity of ammunition have been recovered from his possession. He was responsible for a number of terrorist crimes. Police are combing the area to apprehend two of his accomplices who managed to escape during the encounter.

In other encounters, three terrorists were killed in Amritsar, Jullundur, and Patiala Districts. A large quantity of arms, including two Chinese assault rifles, have been recovered from their possession.

The Haryana police have arrested four top terrorists involved in the Kaithal massacre after a raid on their hideouts in Gula area of Kurukshetra District. They were responsible for the massacre of 25 people last November.

Iran

Velayati Returns to Damascus Negotiations
LD2801113189 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here for Damascus this afternoon to resume talks with Syrian officials on efforts to end clashes between forces of the Amal and Hizballah, two rival Shi'ite groups in Lebanon.

In a short interview before departure, the foreign minister expressed hope the joint Iran-Syria mediation efforts would put an end to the bloodshed which has taken hundreds of lives so far.

Velayati was in Damascus earlier this week where he held marathon talks with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' and leaders of the Amal and Hizballah parties to discuss ways to end the fighting. He also handed a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad on the conflict.

After four days of intensive talks a ceasefire agreement was reached between Amal and Hizballah Thursday morning which only lasted a few hours as the two sides resumed fighting in southern Lebanon.

Velayati said the Damascus talks had been temporarily suspended because he had to return to Tehran to meet with Jan Eliasson, the special envoy of the U.N. secretary general on the Iraq-Iran war, as well as with Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, representative of the Pakistan-based seven-party alliance of the Afghan mujahidin who arrived in Tehran Wednesday night.

"We hope to establish a comprehensive accord between the two groups (Amal and Hizballah) with cooperation of Syria as well as other political and religious personalities of Lebanon," he told reporters before leaving here.

Velayati said he was optimistic towards the end of the Amal-Hizballah fighting and attributed the breach of Thursday's agreement to "certain discord-sowing elements in the two groups."

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Discusses Amal-Hizballah Talks

01185589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian GMT 28 Jan 89

[Inter
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view with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by pondent J'afari prior to his departure for Syria; not given—recorded]

[Text] for S
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[J'afari] Mr Velayati, on the eve of your departure yria please tell us about the form and topics of ions.

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yati] In the name of God, the merciful, the com- nate. The topic of discussion is ending the clashes en the two Shi'ite groups, Amal and Hizballah. g my last trip to Syria, we had a number of intense ssions with both sides as well as many political and bus Lebanese figures who came to Damascus for urpose. We made some progress but did not reach results.

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the fact that the general secretary's special envoy, liasson, was coming to Tehran as well as Mr atyar, I had to return to Tehran and thus the ssions were temporarily halted. We returned to an with our accompanying brothers. Some of those ved stayed in Damascus and later went to Beirut.

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greement is for them to return to Damascus. As far know, all the clashing sides, both from Amal and allah as well as Lebanese religious and political es, insist on an end to clashes and the bloodletting een the Shi'ites and revolutionary and struggling nese Muslims. All of them have unitedly asked the ic Republic of Iran to continue these negotiations actively have a presence in Damascus to end the es, and with the help of the Syrian brothers to nue efforts until a serious result has been reached.

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idering the temporary halt in the negotiations, and oid the continuation of clashes, an understanding een the sides was reached and a statement was d containing three articles on a cease-fire, an end to aganda attacks, and a continuation of the negotia- . There have been a number of cease-fire violations e past few days and each side has accused the other olations.

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in itself shows the desire of both sides to maintain ease-fire. However, considering the fact that there is alancing force to oversee any violations, it is diffi- to judge. The role of the elements who create dissent, it should be noted that they are direct or indirect ts of foreigners, cannot be ignored. One shot from a is sufficient to resume the clashes.

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hope that, considering the fact that both Amal and allah as well as all Lebanese ulema would like to see nd to the clashes, and that both Iranian and Syrian hers will do their utmost, with the help of God, we overcome this painful calamity and end it.

[J'afari] Thank you very much.

Comments on 2d Damascus Talks

LD3001070389 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 30, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who just concluded a second mediation mission on ending Amal-Hizballah fighting, said early Monday that tripartite negotiations of Iran, Syria and Hizballah late Sunday were productive.

Speaking to reporters after a four-hour long meeting Velayati said that as a result of the talks which lasted till mid-night Sunday the two rival groups of Amal and Hizballah were now ready to sign a peace accord.

Amal and Hizballah are expected to sign the accord at the presence of Syrian and Iranian officials here Monday morning.

Iran's foreign minister who returned home early Monday, further told reporters that the final communique is expected to be issued in Damascus Monday morning.

The agreement is the outcome of almost 30 hours of intensive talks of Iranian and Syrian officials with Amal and Hizballah leaders, started here last Saturday.

Velayati arrived here Saturday for talks with Syrian officials to help end bloody clashes between Amal and Hizballah. He held lengthy talks not only with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' but also with officials of the two warring groups. The trip was his second in the past several days.

The latest bloody clashes of Amal and Hizballah forces have claimed lives of hundreds and wounded many others.

Following Velayati's talks in Damascus early last week a cease-fire was declared last Thursday which only lasted few hours.

A leadership council member of the Hizballah, Shaykh Ibrahim al-Amin also speaking to reporters at the conclusion of the Sunday talks said that sincere efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria to end the Amal-Hizballah bloodshed have led to good results.

Velayati and Al-Shar' met separately with Amal and Hizballah officials Sunday trying to mend the differences between the two sides and bring their stances closer.

Among issues discussed were security in southern Lebanon, exchange of POWs, ways of Amal-Hizballah cooperation and intensification of anti-Zionist campaign.

UK's Williams Expelled for 'Illegal Activities'

LD3001090289 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—A Briton has been expelled from Iran due to illegal activities after he was found persona non grata by the judicial officials, said a statement by the Information Ministry here Monday.

The statement said that Samuel Williams, working for years as technical expert in Khorasan Province was recently arrested because of unlawful and illegal activities and was expelled after being tried.

Samuel Williams has been barred from entering Iran for a period of ten years, it added.

Williams is the third Briton who is arrested by security officials for illegal activities. One Briton Nicolas Nicola was released last month. Nicola was arrested after an exchange of gun fire near Iran's eastern border and spent some two years in prison.

A British journalist and businessman, Roger Cooper is imprisoned on spying charges for over two years and is awaiting trial.

UK Criticized Over Cooper 'Espionage' Issue

LD2901210189 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Last Friday, in an official meeting between Iran's charge d'affaires in London and the second deputy to the British foreign secretary, the two sides discussed matters of mutual interest including the issue of espionage by Roger Cooper. In the wake of this meeting, the British Government, due to various reasons better known to it, has declared that the British Foreign Office has summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires for becoming aware of the Iranian Government's views on Roger Cooper.

In the course of the said meeting, the Iranian charge d'affaires, in response to a question posed by the British officials on the comments of Iran's interior minister about the court trial of Roger Cooper, said: Roger Cooper's case and cases similar to it relate to that type of accusation which is dealt with by the judiciary. Iran's judiciary is independent of the executive organs.

The point which figures in Roger Cooper's case is that he was one of the veteran spies of the British intelligence service and was assigned by that service to obtain information from Iran. Roger Cooper who has been in jail for the past 3 years confessed his espionage mission in a televised interview. Apart from this, in a letter in his own handwriting sent by him to Iranian newspapers recently, he referred to the previous British record on intervention in Iran's internal affairs.

In view of the existing documents concerning Roger Cooper's expressed confessions about espionage, there is now no doubt among the Islamic Republic of Iran's confident officials that Roger Cooper, in the course of his assignment in Iran, intended to undermine Iran's national security. This type of act is condemned under international law and is a clear indication of interference in Iran's internal affairs.

When Roger Cooper was asked this question: What objective did you pursue in Iran? He responded: The main object was to gather information in different fields so that London officials could have access to an appropriate policy for preserving Britain's interests in Iran. He added: We intended to boost our influence in Iran's political circles, and among aristocrats and anti-regime elements.

Despite this fact the British Government is trying in different ways to make the condemnation of Roger Cooper null and void and introduce him as an ordinary British citizen. But the British officials must be aware of this point that the adoption of such a policy will culminate in the fact that the subject of espionage and intervention in the affairs of countries turns into an ordinary issue and in such a case this in turn will threaten Britain's security interests.

There is no doubt that in order to establish healthy relations, the British Government has no alternative but to respect the right of the countries with whom it is inclined to establish diplomatic relations. The Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of this principle alone, is willing to improve its ties with Britain. Otherwise Tehran will show a strong reaction to any sort of relations which are considered a threat for internal security or national sovereignty.

The British Foreign Office, based on its past methods, still has colonialistic thoughts and its personnel continue to experience such policies which were employed in the past era. But the existing realities and the current diplomacy in the world can no longer tolerate such methods. Due to this reason, the countries which apparently consider themselves to be adhering to the principles of this diplomacy and respect for a nation's right, are obliged to follow these principles in practice as well. For, in the absence of such an act they would have to pay the cost for evading these principles in the form of their political isolation.

BBC Blamed for 'Provoking' UK Hostage Issue

LD2701204589 Tehran IRNA in English 1938 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] London, Jan 27 IRNA—The brother of British businessman and journalist Roger Cooper has accused a BBC reporter of being extremely tactless in aggressively provoking the issue of his continued detention in Iran with Interior Minister Hojat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

Britain has a "history of treating Iran as a satellite power" and BBC journalist David Lomax interviewed Mohtashemi on Thursday in a "fairly heavy-handed way," when relations between the two countries have not been good, Paul Cooper said.

He was referring to remarks made by the interior minister about his brother imprisoned in Tehran for espionage and that he would be "punished according to Islamic law" in spite of Britain's arrogance in claiming that he should not face trial.

Mohtashemi was "being attacked" by the reporter at a time that Iran still resents Britain's earlier role in Iran, Cooper said in a series of press and radio interviews Friday.

He felt it was an "unwise thing to do" and feared that such provocation could jeopardise his brother's chances of receiving a prompt trial or an amnesty.

Cooper himself felt it was a time to adopt a more conciliatory tone in contrast to his own previous remarks, when he had suggested that his brother was being badly treated in prison and that he was being used by Iran as a bargaining chip.

"Roger wants Islamic justice and has every faith in it," he does "not want a pardon but wants his name to be cleared" and walk out of Tehran a "free man," Cooper maintained.

He said that his brother had such a great regard for and a "very balanced view" of Iran.

On future developments he was unsure, but said that he hoped the British Government would deal with the case "quietly and firmly and not in a noisy, accusatory sort of way."

IRNA Notes UK Charge d'Affaires Appointment

LD2801133389 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] London, Jan. 28, IRNA—The Foreign Office has announced the appointment of Nicholas Walker Browne as the new charge d'affaires to be attached to the British Embassy in Tehran.

Browne is due to fly out to Iran on Tuesday to join consular official Victor Welborne and First Secretary Gordon Pirie, who has been acting head of the U.K. mission since it reopened last month for the first time in 8 years.

The 41-year old charge has previous experience in Tehran, but before the Islamic revolution when he served as third secretary between 1971 and 1975. Previously he has served as first secretary in Zimbabwe before independence and more recently in Brussels.

His appointment comes at a crucial time following last November's agreement to restore relations and when Britain has not been seen carrying out fully its commitment of mutual respect and non-interference in Iranian affairs as underwritten in the agreement.

His additional diplomatic weight is considered necessary to re-emphasize a more conciliatory line against the unsuccesful use of smears that have proved counterproductive for British interests and set back hopes of regaining some standing in Iran.

Browne is married with two sons and two daughters and is understood to have worked on brushing up his Farsi to assist him with his task in hand.

Daily Cites U.S. 'Coercion' on Hostage Issue

LD2901142389 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—The new U.S. Administration's call for the release of American hostages in Lebanon as a precondition for mending ties with Iran was described as "coercion and blackmail" by a Persian daily Saturday.

But in a commentary ABRAR said the Islamic Republic had indicated that it may think about resuming relations if Washington released Iranian assets.

"(U.S. President) George Bush should know that coercion and blackmail cannot solve any issue and he must have in mind the experience of his predecessors," ABRAR said.

The paper termed as "astonishing" Bush's statement in his first press conference that the release of American hostages in Lebanon could be a good step towards normalization of ties with Iran.

"It is astonishing that the U.S., a country which itself broke off relations is now setting conditions to build relations with Iran, a country which does not think it is important if the ties remain broken."

ABRAR said Bush's comments on Iran's alleged influence among hostage-takers believed to hold 8 Americans was "typical superpower arrogance" which indicated that the U.S. was still "insisting on using pressure and blackmail against deprived nations."

"Bush should know that Iran is not interested in having relations with such a country," it added.

But ABRAR said Tehran would consider renewing ties with Washington only when, as Imam Khomeyni commented, the Iranian people felt that the great Satan had become "human".

ABRAR suggested that one way the U.S. could prove its goodwill was the release of Iranian assets.

"Iran could study America's request when that country takes action to show its goodwill by unfreezing Iranian assets blocked in America," it said.

Billions of dollars worth of assets including arms paid for before the Islamic Revolution have been held in the U.S. despite Iran's repeated demand that they should be handed over.

President 'Ali Khamene'i said the return of the assets was one of Iran's conditions to consider improving ties with Washington.

Raising the issue of American hostages, the Persian daily believed that Washington had not changed its stand towards Iran and the Bush administration wanted to hide U.S. faults in Lebanon and magnify the humanitarian angle of the hostage issue.

This was while 4 Iranian diplomats had been taken hostage by Christian Phalange forces who were "controlled directly" by Western countries, particularly the U.S.

TEHRAN TIMES Urges 'Normal Terms' With U.S.

LD2901121189 Tehran IRNA in English 1232 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—A Tehran daily called on the United States Government not to lay much stress on the hostage issue for a restoration of ties with Iran and instead "think in normal terms on the basis of mutual national interests."

The English daily TEHRAN TIMES also urged the new U.S. Administration to pave the way for a Washington-Tehran thaw by releasing billions of dollars of Iranian assets frozen in American banks for years.

Pointing to George Bush's overture again on Saturday for resumption of ties with Iran, the second since he was elected President early this month, the paper pointed out in its editorial that Iran did not have "much of a direct influence" over the release of the hostages in Lebanon but conceded that the Islamic government has only "certain ideological influence there."

Recalling President 'Ali Khamene'i's remarks Friday that it was Iran, not the United States which should set conditions for reestablishment of ties, TEHRAN TIMES commented, "even making allowance for the over-spirited tone of the Iranian president's remarks, we are certain he more than anyone else appreciates that it has been Iran's consistent policy to have friendly relations with any government that shows an equally reciprocal desire for friendship."

"Yet Mr. Bush's desire for possible friendly relationship with this country should be taken cautiously and carefully. To establish friendly relations and go further to establish diplimatic ties is certainly a thing that can be mutually beneficial to the cou[n]tries involved in many ways. But the establishment of [s]uch relations, as far as the Islamic republic is concerne[d], will have to be at all points in consonance with its Is[lamic] and revolutionary principles. There is a particular [s]ensitivity for us in Iran in this because there are those [w]ho might too hastily conclude that these relationship[s] will be fostered at the cost of cherished principles and [g]round for easy gain.

"No one for that matter can [e]ver imagine that the Islamic Republic will ever co[n]template ties with the Zionist regime of Israel, or ev[en] the racist regime of South Africa, since the very pri[n]ciples of Islam and the Islamic revolution run cou[n]ter to the doctrines enshrined in the setup of these [t]wo entities...

"But the U.S. President may be [o]vershooting his mark if he for some reason assumes that [I]ran can have too much of a direct influence over the [r]elease of hostages in Lebanon, although it cannot b[e] well denied that it has certain ideological influence [t]here. Therefore, it is important that the United States [d]oes not lay too much stress on this aspect alone for a restor[a]tion of ties and think in normal terms on the basis of m[u]tual national interests. When it comes to this, there[a]re are of course several outstanding questions, such as t[h]e frozen Iranian assets still held by the U.S. which have [t]o once and for all to be resolved for a restoration of ti[e]s on the basis of sincere mutual trust."

Khamene'i Gives Second Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2701192489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1526 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Second Friday Prayers sermon by President 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 27 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I will talk about two or three issues, god willing, briefly. The most important issue is about the anniversary of the revolution and the end of the first decade of the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

When the revolution became victorious, countries affiliated with arrogance were shaken and frightened. Muslim nations all over the world looked on it as a great Islamic renaissance and set their hopes on it. The Iranian nation, like a champion in their midst, carried heavy burdens, combated great conspiracies, and bravely pursued the course it had begun. At the outset of the revolution, we were not aware of many issues. Later, incidents clarified them for us. We had not gauged the extent of enemy conspiracies and the enmity of the world powers toward Islam. [passage omitted]

Despite all their differences, the East and the West joined forces against this revolution. This revolution, on its own, and this nation—relying on God, proudly, and innocently and all alone, but God—started this course putting its hopes on no one and took firm steps. Until

today, 10 years after the revolution, our nation, officials, and leader have not retreated even an inch from the fundamental stands of the revolution. [chanting]

Our enemies and those who wish us ill stress our weaknesses and shortages, asking why the revolution has not done this or that, constructed this or that, or eradicated this or that problem. They are not prepared to see this immense miracle that the revolution brought to the world. They are not prepared to see the immense changes that were brought to this country, the sort of changes that would not have taken place for decades or even centuries without an Islamic revolution and a popular mass movement.

Yes, our goals are a complete Islamic society. Such a society is a shining example that has no twin in the world, a society where there is no sign of poverty, ignorance, injustice, oppression, and so on. Yes, it is our goal. We are behind schedule, but how do we compare with the idolatrous system that ran this country before? How do we compare with countries that operate without an Islamic system? How do we compare with rich countries that have much wealth and immense military power, but were shaped by non-Islamic revolutions? Compared with all of them, our revolution has been a successful and progressive one. [passage omitted]

From the first step in our revolution, even though it was fraught with all the dangers and problems pertaining to revolutions, the leader of the revolution endeavored from the first day to establish popular organizations in this revolutionary society. In what revolutionary country can we find a precedent for people's representatives writing a constitution and the people then approving that constitution? There is no such thing. In revolutionary countries those who struggled, the leaders of the revolution, sat down and wrote what they considered to be a constitution. When they saw fit, they changed it, and the people had to live with it. [passage omitted]

What other revolution allowed people to set up newspapers and form parties in its first few years? All these have happened in our revolution, less than a year after the revolution elected representatives of the population who formed the council of experts and approved the Constitution. That same Constitution then subject to a popular referendum and approval.

In the year 59 [year beginning 21 March 1988] in the early part of the year 59, the Islamic Consultative Assembly came into being and was formed with 270 representatives from across the country, all of them ordinary people—not the rich, the landed gentry, or those with influence and position. They were all ordinary people, from teachers to clerics, workers, merchants, and farmers. They were elected by the people and came to the majlis. This all happened because even though our revolution was a movement that faced all the dangers encountered by any revolution, it also was a movement that respected and accepted its own principles. We said from the start that this revolution is a popular one. [passage omitted]

The imposed war occupied the best years of this revolution. For the first 1 or 2 years, the officials of the revolution were not fully in charge. When a revolution is staged and certain people are put in office, they have no experience in managing the country. [passage omitted]

For 8 years, the facilities, money, will, resolution and lives of the young were spent on the war that was imposed on us in order to destroy our revolution. Today the world knows who carried on with the war. Obviously, it was Iraq.

We have accepted Resolution 598. The Geneva talks have started. There have been several sessions. Iraq violated the resolution from the word go. Its forces are still in our country and have not been withdrawn. [passage omitted]

It is natural for hardship, destruction, problems, and shortages to result from a war. Obviously, if we had spent the war costs on other things, the universities, roads, factories, and production all would be different. That is obvious. Who would not understand it? Obviously, if they had not supplied the enemy with assorted weapons against the revolution, all those factories, power plants, and development centers would not have been destroyed. That is obvious. The enemy has done all this.

We staged the revolution and we stand by it. We said we were staging the revolution for the sake of the sovereignty of Islam, for the independence of the country, to sever the influence of the great powers from this land and nation, and to disgrace and belittle the great Satans of the world. We carried on and were successful. Of course, in every fight there are always difficulties. We have accepted these. The Iranian nation has stood firm.

The mercenary mass media—90 percent of the world's mass media are run by Zionists—is trying to infer that the Islamic revolution has reached a stage where it is reconsidering its principles. That is a lie, and they know it. They know that the nation and the leader are satisfied with the course they have taken. We have been able to take our country and our revolution to heights of glory in the world. [chanting]

Why should the Iranian nation regret the road it has taken? This immense 10-year march has had nothing but pride, glory, the implementation of the words of God and the drawing near to our goals. Naturally, it is difficult to travel the road of God and of life, the road of honor. [pasage omitted]

During the past few years, the U.S. regime has repeatedly and through various means informed us that it wishes to re-establish relations with the Islamic republic. We have,

in turn, responded by saying that we would only consider a resumption of relations if the United States refrained from its oppressive policies. We have no animosity toward any nation or government, but we oppose oppression and injustice. They have repeatedly asked and we, in turn, have stated our conditions.

Our conditions have been for them to refrain from oppression, injustice, and aggression against the rights of the Iranian nation, a demand that they pay us what they owe. We have said this many times. Now the new U.S. President has stated that he is ready to resume relations with Iran, subject to this and that. He is setting conditions!

We do not accept your conditions! You have nothing to say to us. We object, we do not agree to a relationship with you! We are not prepared to establish relations with powerful world devourers like you! The Iranian nation has no need of the United States, nor is the Iranian nation afraid of the United States. It has demonstrated this in the international arena. It can bravely stand and resist in the face of either of the superpowers. [chanting]

We are the ones who have conditions and do not accept your behavior, your oppression and intervention in various parts of the world, your aggression against the Iranian nation and Iran, as well as against the system of the Islamic republic. You cannot set conditions for us. [passage ommitted]

I want to finish now. Unfortunately, although I did not want to talk very long, I did. There are a couple of points regarding the situation in Lebanon which will have to wait. However, I would like to mention that thank God, the Iranian and Syrian brothers' meetings in Syria with the Lebanese brothers, achieved results, and I am very happy about this. There are some, of course, who do not want to let these results stabilize and be realized.

However, we stress that the meeting of Iran, Syria, Amal and Hizballah was based on an agreement between myself and Mr Hafiz al-Asad sometime ago. This was going to happen and now I ask all our brothers in Lebanon, the Shi'ite brothers who unfortunately are fighting each other, to take these opportunities, to come to terms with each other, and to end the bloodshed since what has recently taken place in Lebanon is very bitter and unacceptable. Such things must never happen again.

Khomeyni Gives 'Stern Advice' to Judiciary

LD3001172989 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30 IRNA—Imam Khomeyni has stressed that his recent stern advice to the judicial authorities urging them to tackle the bureaucracy did not mean that his liking for them had lessened.

But he reaffirmed his position that the "many problems" within the judicial system must quickly be solved.

"...May God give all the strength to solve as quickly as possible the many problems judiciary faces," the imam said in a letter dated 29 January to Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili.

The imam also renewed his support for other SJC [Supreme Judicial Council] members and added that he had agreed to the request of one of its members, Marashi in particular, to change his job.

In his letter, the imam said those who were not accustomed to the culture of theolgical schools assumed that the "bitter-sweet nature of these debates and reminders" was an indication that he felt less affection for them.

"This is not the case," the imam retorted. "I find you (Chief Jusitce Ardabili) to be a pious, religious person and a good aide of mine and the revolution."

But the leader of the Islamic Republic called on the chief justice and all other respected members of the SJC to "look greater and more properly and minutely into judicial issues and firmly remove the shortcomings and deivations."

In his 20 January Friday prayer the chief justice said with orders from the imam a special committee was being set up to speed up important cases dating years involving serious crime.

He then described the imam's order as a "fatherly rebuke".

"Our Islamic revolution is your revolution and I am serving the revolution just as you are," the imam said in his letter dated 29 January. But he went on that in the Islamic Republic "everyone should open the society's path towards prosperity with fair criticism and by presenting the problems."

Khomeyni Criticizes 'Insulting' Radio Program

LD3001080289 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni in a letter to managing director of radio and television Mohammad Hashemi Sunday said that those responsible for airing a program insulting on Islam must be punished.

The letter printed in both the Persian morning dailies, JOMHURI ESLAMI and ABRAR on Monday, said "unfortunately Saturday morning the radio aired a program on symbol of Islamic woman which one is ashamed of restating it. The person who has aired it is to be punished and expelled and those involved must also be punished."

The letter further added "if proven there was a deliberate insult, undoubtedly the person who has made the insult receives a death sentence."

The imam stated that if such cases are repeated the high ranking officials of the radio and television will be severely punished. The letter concluded that of course in all cases measures will be taken by the judiciary.

The program in question was aired Saturday in the daily 'Family' anniversary of Hadhrat Fatimar Zahra (A.S.), daughter of prophet of Islam (SAW).

The program interviewed women about their opinion on symbol of the Islamic woman.

CSSR Relations Viewed; Adamec Visit Previewed

LD2901134789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Political commentary]

[Text] With the aim of the expansion and strengthening of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and the CSSR, at the invitation of Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the IRI prime minister, CSSR Premier Mr Ladislav Adamec will arrive in Tehran at the head of a delegation for a 3-day visit.

During this visit, in addition to two rounds of discussions with the Iranian prime minister, the Czech premier and his accompanying delegation—in separate meetings with other high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic—will have discussions about the further expansion of bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest.

Iran and Czechoslovakia enjoy long-standing relations. Both before and after the victory of the Islamic revolution there has been cooperation in industrial and commercial fields. During the years after the victory of the Islamic revolution mutual meetings of political, technical, and commercial delegations in Tehran and Prague have paved the way for the expansion of bilateral relations.

In the course of a recent visit of Czech industrialists to Tehran, the two sides, while stressing the need for the expansion of economic relations, agreed that the machines needed by the mining industry and by those that produce concrete, sugar, rubber, power-generators will be provided by Czechoslovakia through the transfer of technology. The two countries also agreed that in return for the importation of some industrial goods, including textiles, shoes, leather, raw materials and machine-tools, Czechoslovakia will provide Iran with some of the aforementioned industries.

At the same time, in addition to industrial relations between Iran and Czechoslovakia, the volume of commercial exchanges between the two countries has recently increased. In comparison with the year 1986 of the Christian era, when Czech exports to Iran were estimated at above 48 million dollars, this figure increased to 62 million dollars in 1987. In return, that country's imports from Iran increased from 65 million dollars in 1986 to 92 million dollars in 1987.

The first joint Iran-Czech economic commission was held last year in Prague. The second joint commission is due to meet next summer to sign a new protocol. In view of the relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Eastern bloc which have expanded especially after the victory of the Islamic revolution, Iranian-Czech relations are regarded as important.

It is expected that in view of the existing areas of understanding and extensive cooperation between the two countries, the visit of the Czech premier will pave the way for the further expansion of existing relations. The expansion of relations between the two countries, in addition to its economic advantages, will lead to the expansion of bilateral political relations within the context of the two countries' national interests.

Adamec Arrives, Met By Musavi

LD2901135289 Tehran IRNA in English 1351 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—The Prime Minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Ladislav Adamec arrived here this afternoon on a 3-day official visit and was greeted at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Hoseyn Musavi.

Speaking to reporters upon arival, Adamec said he was here to exchange views with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran on issues of mutual interest and ways to expand bilateral relations.

The Czech premier is heading a high-powered delegation including a number of his advisors and the Minister of Foreign Trade Jan Sterba.

Pointing to long-standing friendly ties between Tehran and Prague, Adamec also announced his country's readiness to help Iran in its post-war construction.

Adamec, 63, also expressed hope to discuss expansion of joint cooperation in scientific, technical, cultural, and sports areas with Iranian officials.

Also speaking was Premier Musavi who said regional issues, including the Iraq-Iran peace talks, as well as the situation in the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan will be among other topics to be discussed by the two sides.

Adamec is scheduled to meet with President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Musavi also expressed hopes the visit will result in promotion of relations and an increase in trade exchanges between the two countries..

The volume
dlrs. 150 m
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92.3 million

trade between the two countries exceeded
on in 1987, according to an official at the
y in Tehran. Czech exports to Iran in that
llrs. 62 million and Iranian imports at dlrs.

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machine to
sugar mills

a imports crude oil, mineral ores, dried
nd footwear in return for good such as
, textile machinery and spare parts for
nstructed by that country.

The Czech
hold several
industry, he

reign trade minister is also scheduled to
meetings with Iran's ministers of energy,
y industry, and commerce.

Deputy For
ranking men

gn Minister Jaromir Nehera is another
er of the Czech Delegation.

The Czech
Iran in 198
Foreign Min

oreign Minister Jaromir Johanes visited
and a return visit was paid to Prague by
ter Velayati in 1986.

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clusion of Prime Minister Adamec's visit

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LD29011854
29 Jan 89

damec, Musavi Begin Talks
9 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT

[Text] Tehra
Ladislav Ada
Iranian coun
in Tehran to

, Jan 29 IRNA—Czech Prime Minister
mec started the first round of talks with his
erpart Hoseyn Musavi, shortly after arrival
lay afternoon.

The talks foc
also turned to
the Iran-Iraq

sed on ways of expanding mutual ties and
regional and international issues including
peace talks and the issue of Afghanistan.

Adamec, brie
issues lauded
Resolution 5
aggression. "
post war reco

fing Musavi on Prague's stands on global
the Islamic Republic's acceptance of U.N.
98 for ending almost eight years of Iraqi
Czechoslovakia is keen on contributing to
nstruction projects in Iran," he added.

Musavi, adve
deplored the
national conv
cess.

rting to the stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks,
Baghdad regime's scant disregard for inter-
ventions and its blocking of the peace pro-

"Iraq's procra
darkened the

stination of the U.N.-mediated talks has
prospects of peace in the region," he added.

The Iranian
mutual econo
Prague's parti

premier also welcomed promotion of
mic and industrial cooperation including
icipation in Iran's rehabilitation.

Foreign Trade
Minister Jaroe

Minister Jan Sterba and Deputy Foreign
mir Nehera are accompanying Premier
is Iran visit.

Khamene'i, Afghan Leader Hikmatyar Hold Talks
LD2801194789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] President Khamene'i received Mr Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan last night. Mr Hikmatyar offered a report on the latest conditions of Afghan mujahid forces on the eve of the final victory of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan, noting the international plots aimed at creating division in the lines of Afghan mujahidin, he thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for the support it has offered the Islamic Revolution in Afghanistan.

In turn, Mr Khamene'i noted the common religious, historical, geographical, and cultural points between the two Muslim nations of Iran and Afghanistan. He noted that Afghanistan's destiny is that of Iran. He added: We have shared the happiness of the Afghan people and have been saddened by their sadness.

Mr Khamene'i added: The last steps of the struggle are the most sensitive ones. Therefore the mujahidin and all Afghan people should be very aware so that they will maintain the Islamic identity of their country after the victory and the achievement of independence and sovereignty.

Musavi Praises Mujahidin
LD2801194889 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi considered the Afghan Muslims' victory over a superpower a great inspiration in the history of Islam and said "the victory of Afghan mujahidin is a victory for Islam and, therefore, a victory for Iranian Muslims."

In a meeting with Islamic party chief and envoy of the Pakistan based seven-party Afghan alliance Gulbuddin Hikmatyar Saturday, Musavi added that solution to all future problems as well as the imminent victory of afghan Muslims primarily hinges on unity among all mujahidin forces.

The premier also announced the Islamic Republic's readiness to cooperate with the future Islamic government in Afghanistan.

Hikmatyar thanked the Islamic Republic for its aid to Afghan people and mujahidin and expressed hope that a provisional government would be soon formed in Afghanistan to take over the country after the Soviet troops' withdrawal.

Afghan Mujahidin's Khalili Holds News Conference
LD2901193489 Tehran IRNA in English 1807 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Esfahan, Jan. 29, IRNA—All one-sided and unrealistic plans on Afghanistan's future is "doomed to defeat," warned a spokesman for the Iran-based 8-party Afghan mujahidin coalition today.

Muhammad Karim Khalili told a press conference here that any plan for war-ravaged Afghanistan should include both the Iran and Pakistan based muhajidin groups as well as other independent groups "or else it is sure to fall through."

He blamed foodstuff shortages in Kabul on the inefficiency of the Soviet-installed Marxist regime. "Of course, the mujahidin are concerned about the fate of Kabul residents," he added.

However, Khalili warned that the situation is bound to worsen unless the Kabul regime is toppled.

He did not rule out the possibility of a military coup "now that the Kabul regime is on the verge of certain collapse."

Dismissing Moscow's threats to partition Afghanistan as "very unlikely," the spokesman pointed that the Soviets despite their military aggression and bringing to power of a Marxist regime had failed to take control of entire Afghanistan.

Asked about the reason of his visit to Esfahan, Khalili said he was here to brief his compatriots on the latest developments in Afghanistan.

Soviet Pullout From Afghanistan Analyzed
LD2901202789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The Afghan mujahidin and Muslim people, during the last days of the Soviet forces' presence in their country, are witnessing events similar to the withdrawal of the U.S. invading forces from Saigon. Previously, the Kremlin authorities hinted that Afghanistan might become the USSR's Vietnam. Moscow is now trying to meet its commitment of the 15 February withdrawal by withdrawing its remaining forces from Afghanistan.

Kremlin officials are deeply concerned about maintaining the safety of these forces, who at the end of the 9-year occupation of Afghanistan have been forced to retreat, not so gracefully, behind their country's borders. The bombings by Soviet planes and intense artillery attacks on mujahidin positions in the Salang region during the past few days are a reflection of the Soviet Union's concern vis-a-vis this issue. The Soviets have also threatened that they will continue the bombings to keep open the Salang highway, which is the highway used by the withdrawing Soviet units.

The majority of the Soviet forces, stationed at the Kabul garrison, are to leave the city by this Thursday and their withdrawal in a column can lighten their shame. The Soviet forces are trying to create a secure route by massacring the civilians in the vicinity of the Salang highway. This is interpreted as an honorable withdrawal of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan after a decade of blatant aggression. [passage omitted]

It seems that the United States and its allies are in favor of bloodshed in Kabul and the Soviet Union has prepared the grounds for it by dispatching a large quantity of arms and ammunition to the Najibullah regime. Some diplomatic sources believe that the crisis of closing embassies in Kabul is in fact a step taken to prepare the arena for a callous and uncontrollable massacre of about 3 million inhabitants of Kabul by the communist fanatics, who believe in a military solution for the problem of Afghanistan. The diplomatic sources add that the absence of the West in Kabul will intensify ruthless methods there.

It is not without foundation, therefore, that the Afghan mujahidin, during the last days of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan—which has been realized thanks to their relentless struggle against the invaders—feel that the East and the West have reached some agreements that will undermine Afghanistan's independence and territorial integrity. This conspiracy can only reach fruition through the creation of discord in the ranks of the Afghan mujahidin with the objective of changing the Islamic nature of Afghanistan.

The vigilance of the mujahidin and the Muslim people of Afghanistan in the last steps of the struggle toward a definite victory is thus a vital matter. What is crucially important and necessary for Afghanistan under the present sensitive circumstances is the establishment of a government on the basis of desire and the will of the oppressed nation of Afghanistan and the safeguarding of that country's national unity.

Khamene'i Message Delivered to Gabon's Bongo
LD2701223189 Tehran IRNA in English 2055 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—A message from Iran's President Khamene'i to the President of Gabon El Hadj Omar Bongo was presented to him by the Iranian Defence Minister General Jalali in Libreville Thursday.

The president of Gabon praised post-revolution progress in Iran and noted that the African nations look forward to establishing friendly relations with Iran.

He also also expressed hope that the Embassy of Gabon would shortly re-open in Tehran.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is participating at an exhibition in Libreville named "arms and security weapons for peace."

Khamene'i Interviewed on Role of Media

NC2701220089 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1514 GMT 27 Jan 89

[From the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Excerpts] Our correspondent asked our esteemed President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to assess the media's role in society with regard to focusing on the country's problems and to question why, in certain cases, people's problems are not carried by or reviewed in the media. Let us listen to the interview together:

[Begin recording] [Khamene'i in progress]...and if our brothers increase their efforts and seek the people's views and compile them in a correct and desired manner and project them accordingly, it will be most welcome. [passage omitted]

In general, the people's contact with the media, the Voice and Vision, is good, but efforts must be made to make the people more politically aware. Let us take this very program. I think that this is a program which is aired on Friday evenings, isn't it?

[Unidentified correspondent] Yes.

[Khamene'i] This Friday evening feature can play a remarkable role. As today is a holiday, this feature is one of the programs I watch most regularly and more than others, as on Friday I have more leisure time. I see many loopholes in this particular program, however. I see that some problems which are of interest to the people are not given adequate attention by the program, while other problems which do not interest our people in the least, such as world political affairs, which are not of immense importance, are needlessly blown up and extensively covered.

Issues of immense interest to the people are sparsely dealt with, and at times merely one side of such issues is presented. Another objection is that in your political analysis program on the week's events, you should elaborate on and explain the political viewpoint of the government. I see very little of this in your program.

[Correspondent] There is a segment on this topic.

[Khamene'i] Perhaps there is a segment on it, but generally not in the entire program. For example, if an international event is analyzed, it does not matter. However, on some international political issues, the Islamic Republic of Iran has a definite stance. We do not say that this stance should be endorsed by the television in a categorical and unilateral manner.

If it wishes to analyze it and finds it the best stance, it may endorse it, but at least this should be done in an explanatory manner. I see this very rarely in your program. The Islamic Republic's stance is sometimes even put under a question mark in your program, and for no reason.

I feel that in a political analysis program, instead of concentrating on political considerations, one should focus more on facts and the correct points and political realities. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Khamene'i] I pray for your success. [end recording]

Publications, news agencies, radio, and television compromise a country's mass media, which should mirror all the facets of society's events. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly, inattention to significant social acts and indifference fosters a destructive attitude in society. Fundamental changes in the political and economic fields which frequently have been wrought by executive officials may have been overshadowed to a large extent by the imposition of the war. However, the reasons for adopting such decisions and their modus operandi have not been completely explained to the people.

Elaborating on such issues by the mass media can definitely play an indisputable role in uniting people and officials. Issues such as debt, inflation, and the tilt toward establishing political ties with various countries requires more discussion by our mass media.

On the other hand, it must be remembered that the clarification of internal stances and the search for the roots of domestic problems do not give the country's enemies or ignorant elements a pretext for disseminating baseless rumors or versions of issues which are far removed from the reality of our society. In such conditions, not only will the mass media not be able to find its true niche, but ideas and views of dubious groups will be disseminated instead of facts.

For this reason, the false projection of personalities and groups who are unable to comprehend the people's sentiments and are merely seeking to be ostentatious should be avoided. Simultaneously, attempts must be made to ferret out discrepancies in management and weaknesses. Also, important issues which are linked to the destiny of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the ideals of all the Muslims of the world, must be elaborated upon without any self-censorship.

In conclusion, one may pay attention to this basic point—the hallowed gains of the Islamic revolution which have been attained with the precious blood of the land's martyrs and constitute a unique model and the hope of millions of Muslims must not be tainted by known enemies or ignorant groups.

In addition, it may be noted that criticism can only be effective and valuable when it is based on facts, responsible criticism, specific suggestions, and realistic and practical proposals.

Officials Discover Narcotics, Arrest Dealers

LD260109 '589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Fifty merchants of death were arrested in Taybad, Birjand, Quchan, Neyshabor, Jahrom, (Nahvandan) and Zabol. Officials discovered 29 kg of opium and opium residue, 3 kg of hashish, nearly 2 kg of heroin, 5 firearms, 18 gold coins, and an undisclosed amount of jewellery.

The narcotics dealers, addicts, a truck, and five motorbikes and bicycles were handed over to the judicial officials.

Gangs in 4 Provinces Routed

LD2601115689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 jan 89

[Text] In the breaking of six rings involved in the procurement and distribution of narcotics in four of the country's provinces, and the arrest of 470 narcotics smugglers and addicts, more than 151 kilograms of narcotics were discovered. A spokesman of the Islamic Revolution Committee, in an IRNA interview, described the Islamic Revolution committee officials' activities and dedicated work from the time that the new project for combating the merchants of death began.

The official said: These gangs were continuously operating to trap our country's young people in the provinces of Khorasan, Bakhtaran, Esfahan, and Fars. They have been identified and routed. He added that the gang in Khorasan was an international gang experienced in procuring and distributing narcotics. The spokesman expressed his thanks for the people's all around support in the implementation of the new law against the merchants of death, and called on the people to continue their support until this destructive calamity can be uprooted from society.

Drug Prices Said To Increase

LD2601201689 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA—The price of narcotics has reportedly sky-rocketed since a new anti-drug law took effect on January 21, a spokesman for the Islamic Revolutionary Committeemen (IRC) said Thursday.

IRC personnel have busted six drug smuggling rings in Fars, Bakhtaran and Isfahan Provinces last Tuesday, arresting 470 smugglers and addicts and seizing 151 kgs of narcotics, the spokesman told IRNA by telephone.

Some 74 "death merchants" responsible for the smuggling and distribution of tons of narcotics over the years, have been sent to the gallows since January 21.

136 Drug Smugglers Arrested

LD2601225589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Islamic Revolution Committee Guards of the martyr Raja'i garrison in Mashhad, in the course of an armed confrontation last night with corrupt people and drug smugglers, arrested 136 members of ten international narcotics smuggling gangs in the Sarakhs border strip. According to IRNA, 818 kg of opium, 12 kg of heroin, and 10 weapons and grenades were seized from the arrested people.

Drug Charges 'Pretexts' for Political Executions

TA2501173689 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Reports from Tehran indicate that the execution of political opponents is still going on. Ringleaders of the Islamic Republic regime, without paying heed to the protests of international organizations and circles, are continuing the execution of Iranians under various pretexts.

It is said in this report that on the government's order individuals who at one time cooperated with the Islamic Republic regime and who later joined the opposition, as well as individuals who witnessed the crimes, embezzlements, and wrongdoings of the regime's officials and functionaries were hanged in recent weeks as drug traffickers.

Another report in this connection indicates that the Islamic Republic regime executed a number of its political opponents 15 January in Reza'iyeh.

As you are aware, just today the Khomeyni government's executioners hanged another 10 individuals in several cities, including Tehran, on the charge of drug trafficking.

Pakistan

Spokesman Announces Shevardnadze's 4 Feb Visit

BK2701142889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze will arrive on a day's visit to Pakistan on 4 February.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that during his stay in Islamabad, Shevardnadze will call on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and will hold talks with them on a peaceful and political solution to the Afghanistan problem.

The spokesman said although the situation in Afghanistan is a matter of concern, there is hope that the Soviet foreign minister's talks will pave the way for a peaceful solution to this issue.

Further on Visit

BK2701155889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jan 89

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze will arrive on a day's visit to Pakistan on 4 February. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that during his stay in Islamabad, Shevardnadze will call on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and will hold talks with them on a peaceful and political solution to the Afghanistan problem. The spokesman said that although the situation in Afghanistan is disappointing the Soviet foreign minister's talks will pave the way for a peaceful solution to this issue.

The spokesman said Pakistan has been keeping watch on the situation in Kabul, and it will take a decision in light of the situation prevailing there on whether to recall the mission employees from there and, if they are recalled at all, when.

Senior diplomats have described the talks to be held between the Soviet and Pakistani leaders in Islamabad as very significant in preventing more bloodshed in Afghanistan.

The Soviet foreign minister is arriving in Islamabad after concluding his visit to Beijing. It is expected that during his meeting with the Chinese leaders he will hold talks on the Afghanistan issue and a peaceful settlement to it.

For many years, Chinese leaders have been telling Moscow that Sino-Soviet relations would not improve until Soviet forces were withdrawn from Afghanistan.

Spokesman Denies Possession of Nuclear Bomb

BK2901060589 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Pakistan has denied the report that it possesses a nuclear bomb. A Pakistani Embassy spokesman told REUTER in Washington that this kind of weapon may create instability in the region.

The spokesman added that doubts were created on this by the activities of the past military dictatorship, but there is no inconsistency in the words and deeds of the newly elected government in this regard.

Program for 'Peaceful' Use

BK2901160289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Pakistan will hold consultations with the United States and will convince it that Pakistan's atomic program is only for peaceful purposes and its objective is to increase the production of electricity so as to meet the growing need for power.

A foreign office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that Pakistan needs atomic energy for various developmental activities, including development in the sectors of industry, electricity, agriculture, and health. According to a U.S. press report, before stepping down, the Reagan administration told Congress that it could not authenticate that Pakistan's atomic program was peaceful because Pakistan is close to making an atomic bomb.

Pakistan's embassy in Washington has already rejected this report. Citing Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the embassy said that Pakistan's atomic program is totally peaceful and its objective is only to acquire energy.

The foreign office spokesman strongly rejected a report that the Pakistani Embassy in Bonn had smuggled nuclear materials from the Federal Republic of Germany.

On the meeting of the proposed Afghan mujahidin's consultative group, the spokesman said it will probably be held on 10 February. The seven-party Islamic Alliance of the Afghan mujahidin and the 8-party alliance of the Iran-based Afghan mujahidin are trying to form a consultative committee so as to form a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

Indigenous Rocket Launched Into 'Deep Space'

BK2901065789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] Pakistan is reported to have successfully launched an indigenous multistage rocket into deep space. Reporting this, the Karachi daily DAWN said the rocket was test fired at the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission's test range at Somiani on the 10th of this month.

The rocket reached an altitude of more than 640 km and carried a scientific payload of more than 150 kg. The payload was later recovered.

Iranian Foreign Minister To Make 4-Day Visit

BK2901114289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, is to pay a 4-day visit to Pakistan from Tuesday [31 January]. He will discuss with the Pakistani leaders bilateral matters and regional issues, including peaceful settlement in Afghanistan.

A foreign office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the visit is taking place at the initiative of Iran and it is significant because Dr Velayati is visiting Pakistan for the first time after installation of the present democratic government in the country.

Yaqub Khan To Discuss Afghanistan in Saudi Arabia

BK2901085689 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has left for Riyadh to discuss with Saudi leaders the latest situation in Afghanistan.

Radio Pakistan's representative understands the proposed Afghan Consultative Council, aimed at promoting an atmosphere for forming a broad-based government in Kabul, is expected to especially come under discussions during the talks. This is the second visit of the foreign minister to Saudi Arabia within 2 weeks.

Contacts With Afghan Alliance Leaders Discussed

BK3001112889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1100 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] According to a foreign office spokesman in Islamabad, the Pakistan Government is in touch with the Afghan alliance in connection with the formation of a broad-based consultative group of Afghans to work for a representative government in Afghanistan.

About reports that Pakistan was putting pressure on the alliance leaders to influence the composition of the consultative groups, he said Pakistan was only holding consultations with the alliance.

The spokesman reiterated Pakistan's stand that it did not want to interfere in the affairs of the Afghan people and it was for them to decided their affairs.

About speculation of a fresh move to include the PDPA in the interim government in Afghanistan, he recalled that the mujahidin had already rejected Soviet proposals to that effect and they have only agreed to include certain individuals from Kabul. He pointed out that the mujahidin are now in the process of holding consultations among themselves for the nomination of consultative groups.

By-Election for National, Provincial Seats Begins

BK2801062889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The people are voting to elect candidates in the by-elections for 13 National Assembly seats and 7 seats of the provincial assemblies today.

Polling, which began this morning, will continue until 1700 without any break. Radio Pakistan correspondents, after visiting various places where by-elections are being held, reported that polling continues in an orderly manner and that voters are standing in queues for their turn to vote.

Polling 'Smooth,' 'Peaceful'

BK2801162489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] The counting of votes is in progress in the by-elections held today for 13 national and 7 provincial assembly seats. By-elections were held for nine National Assembly seats in the Punjab, two seats in the NWFP, and one seat each in Sind and Baluchistan.

By-elections were held for provincial assemblies for five seats in the Punjab and two seats in the NWFP. There was no polling for National Assembly of Karachi South-1 and the Sind Assembly seat of Hyderabad-1 as there was no other candidate in the field against PPP [Pakistan People's Party] candidates in each of the constituencies.

The chief election commissioner, Mr Justice S.A. Nusrat, who visited various polling stations in Lahore, while talking to Radio Pakistan's representative, Nadim Siddiqui, expressed full satisfaction over the smooth and impartial conduct of the poll. Radio Pakistan's representatives from other places where by-elections were held reported peaceful and orderly polling.

Provisional Results Announced

BK2901030789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The Election Commission has announced the provisional results of the by-elections for all 13 National and 7 Provincial Assembly seats. Of the 13 National Assembly seats, 7 have been won by the Islamic Democratic Alliance [IDA], 4 by the PPP, 1 by the Awami National Party, and 1 by an independent candidate.

Of the five Punjab Assembly seats, three have been won by the IDA, one by the PPP, and one by an independent candidate. The two NWFP Assembly seats have been won by the PPP.

Radio Pakistan's representative Waheed Malik says that the IDA had vacated four seats it had won in the November general elections, but it won seven National Assembly seats in yesterday's by-elections. The PPP had vacated four seats and won four seats only.

Analyzing the results of the Punjab Assembly, our Lahore correspondent Iftikhar Rasul says that the IDA had vacated two seats in the Punjab Assembly that it had won in the November elections, but now has won three seats. The PPP had vacated one seat and now has won only one seat.

The IDA had vacated one NWFP Assembly seat that it had won in the November elections and has failed to secure any seat in the by-elections. The PPP has won two seats, including the one vacated by the IDA.

In Sind, the PPP candidate has been elected unopposed to a seat that was earlier vacated by the PPP candidate.

The names of those provisionally elected to the National Assembly seats are as follows: NA [National Assembly]-57 Faisalabad-1—Mian Zahid Sarfraz of the IDA; NA-62 Faisalabad-6—Ghulam Mustafa Bajwa of the IDA; NA-67 Jhang-2—Maulana Haji Rahmatullah of the IDA; NA-88 Sialkot-4—Chaudhary Abdus Sattar of the IDA; NA-94 Lahore-3—Mian Umar Hyat of the IDA; NA-95 Lahore-4—Mian Mohammad Azhar of the IDA; NA-138 Muzaffargarh-4—Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi of the IDA; NA-113 Okara-4—Mian Ata Mohammad Manika of the PPP; NA-133 Dera Ghazi Khan-Rajanpur—Sardar Farooq Khan of the PPP; NA-21 Swat-1—Shahzada Amanuddin of the PPP; NA-203 Zafarabad-Pangir—Mir Nabi Bux Khan Khokar of the PPP; NA-1 Peshawar-1—Haji Ghulam Ahmad Billor of the Awami National Party; and NA-192 Karachi East-1—Mohammad Rafique, an independent candidate. [passage omitted]

Correction to Shevardnadze To Visit

BK2701121889 The following correction to the item headlined "Shevardnadze To Visit for Talks on Afghanistan," published in the 27 January 1989 Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on page 70, column two, is supplied by Hong Kong AFP in English at 1207 GMT on 27 January:

Paragraph two, only sentence, should read: ...arrive in Islamabad February 4 on his way.... (correcting date)